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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PALAZZO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 28, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVEN M. PALAZZO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2015, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

JOHN A. BOEHNER, THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Speaker of the House, JOHN BOEHNER.

Speaker BOEHNER and I, as some would note, do not always agree. We have been on opposite sides of this floor and on opposite sides of debate many times. However, that is behind us for JOHN BOEHNER.

In all of the years I have served with him, Speaker BOEHNER has shown me

the same kindness, grace, and friendship that he has shown so many of his House colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

JOHN BOEHNER is a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and is a leader who, even in the act of stepping back from his position in the leadership, has always put the best interests of our country first.

When it came time to make difficult decisions, even in the face of strong opposition from some in his own party, Speaker BOEHNER was willing to work across the aisle to make sure that this House was achieving its most fundamental responsibilities to those we had the honor of serving.

We did not have a catastrophic default on our debt—at least twice—in large part because of JOHN BOEHNER's determination not to let it happen. Millions of children benefitted from the forms of No Child Left Behind because JOHN BOEHNER, the chairman of the committee, put children's interests first and worked in partnership with the late Senator Ted Kennedy and Congressman George Miller.

That was in the best traditions of a President Bush-sponsored piece of legislation—a Republican chairman, a Democratic chairman, and a ranking Democrat working together on behalf of our country's interest.

JOHN BOEHNER worked to keep his Conference and this House marching forward down a productive path. History will be the judge of his success as the leader of his party, but all of us who have had the honor of serving with him will judge him as we know him—a considerate and thoughtful individual, who is a patriot and who cares deeply about this House and the Nation it serves.

I want to thank him, as I would hope all of our Members would and, frankly, those Members who served with him, but who are not in this House now, for his service and for his friendship.

I want to wish him well and wish him luck out there on the golf course, where I am sure he will be spending a lot more time—I am going to be envious of that—in addition to the time that he will spend with his family and in continuing to serve his community, his State, and his Nation.

JOHN BOEHNER served his country and this House of Representatives with fidelity and responsibility, and we should all thank him for that.

We wish the Speaker and his wife, Debbie, well as they embark on a new phase of their lives. He has served his country well. I am confident that he will continue to do so.

DEBT CEILING BILL FINANCIALLY IRRESPONSIBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Benjamin Franklin advised: "When you run in debt, you give to another power over your liberty."

Washington is in the middle of an epic battle between elected officials who, on the one hand, are financially responsible, have the understanding and backbone needed to prevent an American bankruptcy, heed the wisdom of Founding Father Benjamin Franklin, and fight out-of-control debt that threatens our liberty, and you have those elected officials who, on the other hand, are financially irresponsible and are too weak to resist spending money America does not have, has to borrow to get, and can't afford to pay back.

This week Congress faces yet another last-second debt deal, negotiated in secret, sprung at the last moment, that fails the American people by not fixing the cause of the debt ceiling problem: out of control deficits.

Earlier this year America's Comptroller General and the nonpartisan

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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Congressional Budget Office warned Congress and President Obama that America's current financial path is "unsustainable," meaning that America faces a debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy unless we get our financial house in order.

The CBO issued two other dire warnings:

First, America's debt service costs will increase by, roughly, \$600 billion in 10 years. For perspective, \$600 billion is more than what America spends on national defense, which begs the question: Where will the money for that additional \$600 billion debt payment come from?

Second, the CBO warns that, by 2025, America will face an unending string of annual trillion-dollar deficits, deficits that can only end in a debilitating American insolvency and bankruptcy.

Mr. Speaker, economic principles don't care if you are a family, a business, or a country. If you borrow more money than you can pay back, you go bankrupt.

There are good and bad ways to raise the debt ceiling. Today's debt bill is bad because it not only fails to restrain America's spending addiction, it makes things worse by increasing spending by \$80 billion.

I have been in Congress since 2011, when America's debt blew through the \$14 trillion mark. Now America's debt is \$18 trillion. This debt deal blows America's debt through the \$19 trillion mark, meaning America's bank account will soon be \$5 trillion weaker than it was in 2011.

Rather than fixing America's deficit problem while we still have the financial ability to do so, this debt deal kicks the can down the road to 2017, when America will be financially weaker and less able to rise to the financial challenge that threatens us.

Mr. Speaker, today's debt bill is akin to a sick patient going to the emergency room and getting pain-killing drugs that make the patient feel better, yet does nothing to cure the disease that kills him. In the real world, that is medical malpractice. Similarly, today's debt bill that makes America feel good, but does nothing to cure our debt disease, is governing malpractice.

President George Washington advised Congress: "No pecuniary consideration is more urgent than the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt. On none can delay be more injurious."

George Washington's advice in 1793 is prudent today. Congress and President Obama must balance the budget before America's debt burden spirals out of control, before it is too late to prevent the debilitating insolvency and bankruptcy that awaits us.

Mr. Speaker, I exhort Washington to rise to the challenge and be financially responsible when raising the debt ceiling. The first step is to defeat this debt bill that not only fails to fix a time-critical problem, but that actually makes America's spending addiction

\$80 billion worse. America's future as a great Nation and a world power depends on it.

I will vote against this debt deal. I urge my colleagues to be financially responsible—do the same—and insist that the debt ceiling be raised only if we simultaneously fix America's addiction to deficit spending. Today's debt ceiling bill fails that benchmark. It threatens America. It should be defeated.

THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of wrapping up a budget agreement that is welcome since it protects against default on the national debt and prevents draconian cuts for disability payments and unfairness in Medicare premiums for our senior citizens; but it continues a downward spiral in government spending for essential items that would improve America's infrastructure, education, medical research, and much more. Yet, at the same time, we are continuing on autopilot with some of the largest expenditures for generations to come.

We had an announcement yesterday that we will be replacing the next generation of stealth bombers for our nuclear triad—up to 100 of them—at an estimated cost of over \$550 million each, and that is just the estimated shelf price, the opening bid, plus another \$20 billion in development costs.

Our history of developing weapons of this magnitude is that from the opening bid, the price is likely to spiral much higher in the future. The same contractor, Northrop Grumman, which won this bid, could only build 21 B-2s out of a planned 132 as the costs spiraled to over \$1 billion a plane.

This comes at a time when we are committed to spending over \$1 trillion in the coming decades in upgrading our nuclear fleet. Think about it: 12 new ballistic missile submarines, up to 100 new long-range, nuclear-capable bombers, 642 new land-based ballistic missiles, 1,000 new nuclear-capable, long-range standoff cruise missiles.

And why are we doing this in the first place?

Think for a moment. These weapons that we have already are far in excess of anything America will ever need—a destructive capacity to obliterate any nation multiple times over—yet, we are moving ahead without ever discussing this spending here on the House floor as to whether or not it is what we need.

Think about the security threats of today in terms of an inability to withstand the devastating impacts of climate change on our communities, the threats from ISIS, different challenges of encroachment from Russia and China—not nuclear attack, but moving

ahead in building artificial islands, invading neighboring countries. These are threats now—the Taliban, international terrorism—and we are committed to spending vast sums on weapons that we are never likely to use and are useless against the real threats we face.

We don't need 454 land-based nuclear missiles now. These end up threatening us. Look at the recently released information about the stand-down around Russian paranoia in 1983 regarding NATO exercises. We didn't realize how panicked they were or the steps that they took. That is the real threat from nuclear weapons, accident or miscalculation.

Consider the opportunity costs of vast sums of money that we are tying up that could be used for other purposes, including strengthening our military for today's threats or helping our veterans or our communities on what is bearing down upon them or equipping our citizens to function in this century.

We just had a fascinating lesson when the Export-Import Bank was freed from the iron grasp of the committee and was allowed to actually be debated on the floor of the House. It had been bottled up for years. It had never had that sort of attention. We had more time and energy spent on the Ex-Im Bank over the last 50 hours than, probably, the last 50 years—certainly, in the last 50 months.

What would happen if Congress actually addressed and debated the wisdom of our current nuclear policies and the vast sums of money that are being spent on autopilot that will be chewing a hole in the budget to the detriment of the Department of Defense and everything else?

There is a lesson to be learned, and I hope someday Congress will learn it, because there is a path for a stronger, safer America, for more meaningful, targeted military spending, and for a balanced, thoughtful budget prioritization. If Congress does its job in the open, collectively, the decision becomes easier and the results become better.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS AT NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the students from Pennsylvania participating in this week's National Future Farmers of America, or FFA, convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I believe in the future of agriculture." Those are the first words from the FFA creed. The Pennsylvania group is among 60,000 FFA members at this week's convention, participating in a variety of competitions and stressing the importance of agriculture to our Nation.

Among Pennsylvania's State officers attending the convention is Tony Rice. Tony is a student at the Pennsylvania State University's main campus in Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, and Tony is one of 52 national officer candidates traveling to Louisville.

Each year, six student members are selected as national officers of the FFA. These young men and women travel as many as 100,000 miles per year, stressing the importance of agriculture, agriculture education, and the FFA. Candidates are judged upon their ability to be effective communicators and team players.

Over the past years, Tony Rice has met with more than 12,000 high school students to address the important role that agriculture plays in Pennsylvania's economy as Pennsylvania's number one industry.

Now, I not only commend Tony Rice for his dedication to the future of this industry but also his fellow FFA members and the educators who have helped these young people, who will be the agricultural leaders of tomorrow, succeed.

END CHILDHOOD HUNGER NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest health challenges facing our country right now is hunger. We have a hunger problem in the United States of America.

For far too long, we have minimized the problem. Some have even ignored the problem. In short, our response has been inadequate. And we have failed to view hunger as a health issue, which it is. For our Nation's youngest and most vulnerable, our children, the negative effects of childhood hunger are pervasive and long-lasting.

So last week I was pleased to see the American Academy of Pediatrics release its newest policy statement which, for the first time, recommends that pediatricians screen all children for food insecurity. The new recommendations consist of two simple questions for pediatricians to ask parents of young children at their annual well visit to identify and address childhood hunger. It also recommends that pediatricians become more familiar with our robust system of antihunger programs at the Federal, State, and local levels. When pediatricians know more about these antihunger programs and the resources they provide, they will be better prepared to help families in need.

Pediatricians are among the most respected, if not the most respected, voices on children's issues; and I hope that, with the AAP's policy statement, more people will start paying attention to the devastating effects of childhood hunger on America's future.

It is shameful that childhood hunger even exists in this country, the richest

country in the world, that one in five children lives in a food insecure household, that 17.2 million households in this country struggle with food insecurity, that the only reliable healthy meals some kids receive are the ones they get through school breakfasts or lunches. Their mothers and fathers are forced to skip meals so that their kids can have more to eat because the family simply cannot afford to put enough food on the table.

The harmful effects of hunger on children are well documented: for example, children who live in households that are food insecure get sick more often, recover more slowly from illness, have poorer overall health, and are hospitalized more frequently.

Children and adolescents affected by food insecurity are more likely to be iron deficient, and preadolescent boys dealing with hunger issues have lower bone density. Early childhood malnutrition is also tied to conditions such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease later in life.

Lack of adequate healthy food can impair a child's ability to concentrate and perform well in school and is linked to higher levels of behavioral and emotional problems from preschool through adolescence.

I have personally heard from pediatricians who see kids in the emergency room come in for a common cold that has become much worse because they don't have enough to eat, and their immune systems have been compromised. Stories like these are heartbreaking.

Mr. Speaker, we know that consistent access to adequate nutritious food is one of the best medicines for growing, thriving children. Children's Health Watch, a national network of pediatricians and child health professionals, found that, in comparison to children whose families were eligible but did not receive SNAP, young children whose families received SNAP were significantly less likely to be at risk of being underweight or experiencing developmental delays.

If Members of Congress are not swayed by the moral arguments for ending childhood hunger, they ought to be swayed by the economic ones. Ensuring that our kids have access to enough nutritious food saves money in the form of reduced healthcare costs and helps them become more productive contributors to our economy later in life.

Mr. Speaker, without our robust Federal antihunger programs, there would no doubt be more hungry children in this country.

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC, provides nutritious food and support for children and mothers. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is our Nation's premiere antihunger program and helps millions of low-income families afford to purchase food every month. About half of all SNAP recipients are children. And our school

breakfast and lunch programs, summer meals, and Child and Adult Food Care Programs all provide nutritious meals to children in community, child-friendly settings.

We can't forget about the incredible work our food banks, food pantries, and other charities do to provide healthy food for low-income children and their families. Despite the incredible work that they do, charities cannot do it alone. The demand is simply too great. Charities need a strong Federal partner to end hunger in this country.

Mr. Speaker, for a while now, I have been urging the White House to convene a White House conference on food, nutrition, and hunger. We ought to bring antihunger groups, pediatricians, business leaders, teachers, hospitals, farmers, nonprofits, faith leaders, and governmental officials together to come up with a plan to end hunger in this country once and for all. I can think of no more compelling reason to end hunger now than for the health and well-being of America's children.

In closing, I commend the American Academy of Pediatrics for working to solve hunger as a health issue and addressing how it affects our country's greatest resource: our children. We can and we should do more to end hunger now.

ISIS MUST GO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ABRAHAM) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 1,532 days since President Obama said Syria's Bashar Assad must go. Guess what? He is still there.

It has been 789 days since President Obama drew the red line in the sand, so to speak, and told Assad not to use chemical weapons on his own people. Well, he ignored that. And he used chemical weapons, and he continues to use chemical weapons and kill his own people.

What we are seeing in Syria—the rise of ISIS, the refugee crisis of tens of thousands of people, children having to migrate northward to get out of Syria, the civil war—are all the direct results of the President's unwillingness to stand by his word.

Now Russia is in Syria. They are telling the U.S. on our own soil that America is weak. Look at what they have done in Ukraine. We didn't do anything but give rhetoric and words. Nothing to push Putin back to where he should be.

America is losing her standing in the world, and we would rather appease our enemies than show our strength. This administration still has no strategy for handling ISIS, no tangible plan for defeating Assad, and seemingly no will to stand up to Russia's aggression.

Assad must go. ISIS must go. ISIS must be defeated. America must stand firm and show the world we are a force to be reckoned with, not to be trampled on.

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. It is part of the broader Learning Disabilities Month. This is the time we focus on learning disabilities, particularly in our students and our own children and many who suffer from learning disabilities.

I am emphasizing Dyslexia Awareness Month because I have dyslexia. Growing up, it was very hard being a student that couldn't read well, couldn't spell, couldn't write. I was very ashamed of that. I was shy. I didn't know how to ask for help, but I had a lot of support in my home.

My mother and father didn't really know how to treat it. We didn't even know how to diagnose it in the early ages. I became withdrawn and embarrassed to go to class, particularly to get up and to have to read in front of the class and to spell in front of the class. I still have trouble doing that. Thanks to loving parents and to supportive teachers, I am here.

I share my story because we need to remove the stigma attached to learning disabilities. No student should have to sit in silence being ashamed, being afraid to ask for help.

I had a high school biology teacher, Enid Larson, a person whom I actually wanted to grow up and be like and be a high school biology teacher, who taught me I could accomplish anything. I think I studied sciences because so much of science was memorization and not having to write a lot of papers and not having to read in front of the class.

I pass that same message along because one in five children with learning disabilities or attention issues has to know that it is not because they have a low IQ. They don't. In fact, some of the brightest people in history have had these learning disabilities. It isn't because you are different. It means that you are unique. It means that, with the right help, support, and love, you can accomplish many things. You can cope with your disability.

Many Members of Congress are dyslexic or have children who are dyslexic, and so many that we have actually formed a Congressional Dyslexic Caucus. I am urging you to ask your Member of Congress, if they have not been a member of that caucus, to join it.

I ask for you to ask your school districts what help they are bringing to kids with disabilities and particularly for dyslexic students.

I encourage the students to speak out. You may be shy about reading, but that shouldn't be affecting your speaking. You should speak out about what you feel and what you want.

Dyslexia is a reading and spelling disorder, but you can develop coping skills. With that, you can overcome your shame and your shyness. After

all, many of us in Congress have done that, and that is why I am speaking today and not reading.

FISHER CENTER FOR ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FOUNDATION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. JOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation on their 20th anniversary. To date, the Fisher Center has raised tens of millions of dollars in private funds in the quest to find a cure for this heartbreaking disease that affects millions of families across the country and around the world.

Mr. Zachary Fisher created the foundation in 1995, with the single mission of finding a cure for Alzheimer's through scientific discovery. Since then, the research scientists at the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research at Rockefeller University, led by Nobel laureate Dr. Paul Greengard, have made remarkable strides, advancing groundbreaking research. But there is, of course, much more work to be done to defeat this debilitating disease.

Mr. Speaker, as I rise to recognize the foundation's leadership in the fight to cure Alzheimer's, I must also recognize Mr. Fisher's many other charitable endeavors that have transformed and touched the lives of those who serve our Nation in uniform.

Mr. Fisher was deeply committed to supporting the men and women of our Armed Forces, and our veterans as well. In that light, he founded the Fisher House Foundation, which provides housing to the families of our veterans and our servicemen while a loved one receives medical treatment. Additionally, Mr. Fisher founded the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum in New York City.

□ 1030

But the cause for which I rise today is to urge my colleagues once again and to urge the Nation once again to focus on the profound need to increase Alzheimer's research and to recognize the equally profound work that the Fisher Center has done to ultimately advance and find a cure.

With 5.3 million Americans suffering from Alzheimer's, we must do more. Left unchecked, Alzheimer's will continue to dramatically impact countless lives and families across the country. Left unchecked, Alzheimer's could cost our Nation \$1.1 trillion annually by 2050.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer's, and I rise today to thank the Fisher Center Foundation for leading this charge by funding groundbreaking research to finally end this disease.

PRESERVING OUR PLANET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct our attention to the importance of preserving our planet and what we should do to address the issue of the changes going on in our climate.

Protecting our environment and addressing climate change are issues which are important to all of our cities across the United States. In fact, at a very local level, many of our communities are working on these issues because they face them directly head on.

For the Latino community, like other communities, we are family-oriented, and we want to provide a better future for our generations to come. That includes leaving our planet better—better—for our grandchildren and their children.

As the Latino population continues to increase in the United States—we are about one out of every four, and they say that in another 30 or 40 years, we will be one out of every three Americans—our exposure to climate change and the risks of pollution are even more important because our ZIP Codes—where we live, where the Latino community lives—are where we are highest at risk.

It is estimated that close to 50 percent of all Latino Americans live in counties that frequently violate ground-level ozone standards. It just doesn't affect Latinos, by the way. Asian Americans tend to also live in those ZIP Codes.

What that means is that we are breathing dirtier air than most Americans, and we have more respiratory illness. Poor environmental protections affect the food that we feed our children, the air that our families breathe, and the water that we drink.

Since I was elected to Congress almost 20 years ago, I have worked tirelessly to work in Orange County—where I live and where I represent—to help get some green projects in, both in Orange County and in California.

For example, I have fought to maintain the funding for the Pacific Crest Trail, which serves residents of the entire West Coast and visitors from around the world. Of course, I am an avid hiker; so, I love that trail.

In fact, in this Congress, I cosponsored legislation which would permanently extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which ensures the conservation of national parks, rivers, and streams. It provides grants to local parks and to recreation projects.

One of the things it does is try to ensure that, for example, California, being so long in length, you could start at the southern portion of California and actually walk through wilderness all the way to the Oregon border.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is a bipartisan program. That is why it kind of distresses me a little bit

that we, as a Congress, haven't funded it, because it is incredibly important, especially in urban areas, such as my district, where there is little natural environment left and where we need open space and green parks.

It is where Latinos go to have their barbecues. It is where we have our family gatherings. It is incredibly important to us. Sometimes we live in pretty cramped conditions, and we need that outdoor space, even if it is in an urban area. Places like Pearson and Pioneer Park in my hometown of Anaheim or Centennial Park in Santa Ana or our beautiful Santa Ana Zoo have all been made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what the total cost to taxpayers for these wonderful developments are? Zero. The land and water conservation comes at no cost to the taxpayer, but it benefits them immensely. And, still, this House has failed to fund this. It expired on September 30.

Mr. Speaker, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is another example of a commonsense—commonsense—bipartisan program on which this House has neglected to act.

So I ask the Members of the House, can you go back to the people of your district and say to them: Oh, I don't really care about your parks. I don't really care about the environment. I don't care about where you hang out with your families? This Congress has to act. We should act together on this because it is incredibly important to our families.

I will leave you with a quote, another one from one of my favorite people, His Holiness Pope Francis: "I call for a courageous and responsible effort to 'redirect our steps' and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference." I am sure.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 754. An act to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO END BREAST CANCER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women, and today I wish to honor those fighters, survivors, and families it impacts, such as the Edwards family of Washington Crossing, Bucks County.

Tracy Edwards was just 47 years old, a wife, mother, daughter, sister, and a courageous fighter to the end.

The American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 300,000 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. It is critical that we understand that the battle against this disease does not end when the pink ribbons go away.

I fully understand the vital role leaders play here in Washington every day in supporting groundbreaking research and that we must fight for better treatments, finding a cure, and ultimately defeating breast cancer. Let's work together to end it once and for all.

OUR NATION'S MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, for too long we have neglected mental health in our Nation, leaving many to suffer with little hope. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than in our rural communities.

According to reports, more than 60 percent of rural Americans are living in areas that are experiencing shortages in mental health professionals. More than 90 percent of practicing psychologists and psychiatrists in this country work exclusively in metropolitan areas. More than 65 percent of rural Americans rely solely on their primary care providers for mental health care. In most rural communities, the primary mental health crisis responder is a law enforcement officer, despite not being a medical specialist.

All across rural America patients continue to face longer wait times, difficulty accessing care, and long-distance travel just to access subpar care by professionals, through no fault of their own, not even adequately trained to diagnose and treat mental health issues. In Shasta County, in my district, there is evidently only one psychiatrist in the area, while there is an estimated 4,000 patients with mental health needs.

In addition, the lack of mental healthcare facilities, such as the shortage of inpatient beds and space, leaves patients stuck with longer wait times in the emergency room before they can even see a health professional with no other options.

While the President's healthcare law attempted to make strides in this area by including behavioral health coverage, this system is fundamentally and fatally flawed.

While continuing to throw Federal funding at it may serve as a temporary Band-Aid for the symptoms of this crisis, it does nothing to address the root of the problem. One-size-fits-all, top-down systems do not work, especially in rural America.

If we continue to stand by the status quo, our rural patients will continue to

suffer and, in many unfortunate cases, end up suicidal, homeless, or in prison, placing an even greater financial burden on our communities.

For this reason, I am proud to support H.R. 2646, the Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2015. I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for introducing this sorely needed bill. It is said the first step to fixing a problem is acknowledging there is one, and that is exactly what this bill does.

We spend approximately \$130 billion on mental health every year, yet our country still faces a shortage of nearly 100,000 psychiatric beds. Three of the largest mental health hospitals are, in fact, criminal incarceration facilities.

For every 2,000 children with a mental health disorder, only one child psychiatrist is available. Outdated HIPAA privacy laws continue to prevent families and doctors from getting their loved ones and patients the care they need.

Our mental health system is broken, but it certainly does not have to be. H.R. 2646 is a great step in rebuilding the system to one that works to empower patients and families with the access to care and services they need.

It brings accountability to the system to ensure every Federal dollar is going to evidence-based standards, improves quality, and expands access to behavioral health in our community health clinics while advancing telepsychiatry in areas with limited access to mental health professionals, and, importantly, ends the outdated prohibition on physicians volunteering at clinics and federally qualified health centers.

In addition, it provides more beds for those in need of immediate care or those experiencing a crisis and improves alternatives to institutionalization so patients can access the treatment they need, while it helps us decrease the incarceration rates, homelessness, and recurring ER visits. These are just a few of the sorely needed reforms included in H.R. 2646.

I want to stand today to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MURPHY), for his leadership in introducing this bill and urge my colleagues to lend their support of this responsible measure to help fix this broken system.

ISSUES OF CONCERN TO ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As a breast cancer survivor, I want to add to my sisters and brothers my appreciation for their strength and determination and my respect to those families whose loved ones did not survive the battle.

I am very grateful that, out of this awareness, we have begun to focus on more research for breast cancer remedies and solutions. I introduced a bill

dealing with triple-negative breast cancer, which is the most deadly breast cancer and impacts women and minority women to the extent that their lifespan is shortened.

I rise today to indicate and to ask for renewed commitment by this Congress to focus on more research to bring an end to the forms of breast cancer that have been so deadly, in particular, to women.

I want to thank the U.S. Department of Defense for working with me on providing and supporting legislation that I offered and introduced to provide the research, but also the care for military women who have had breast cancer during their service in the United States military.

It is also Domestic Violence Month, and I acknowledge again the privilege I had to serve on the Committee on the Judiciary and to work with Chairman Hyde in the early stages of introducing and reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. So many strides have been made.

In particular, I want to acknowledge the many agencies in Houston that have helped women—and, in some instances, men—who have been victims of domestic violence and abuse, in particular, the Houston Area Women's Center that has provided service. I served on the board previously, and I appreciate their service. We want to say to those women—and maybe men—do not suffer alone. Seek help and seek help now.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, today we will be looking at the culmination of discussions that have presented themselves as a budget that would end some form of sequester and would raise the debt limit until March 15, 2017.

As a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, I am committed to certain principles that I believe help all of America, and those are: the end to sequestration; the saving of Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare; not eliminating any executive orders or toxic riders undermining, for example, the issues of dealing with our broken immigration system; and the evenness of defense and non-defense sequester relief. We have begun that journey.

I also made a commitment to my seniors that we would fight against the horrific increases that were about to take place under Medicare part D. Those numbers were going to be onerous and burdensome on our seniors, and I will offer them in just a moment.

In addition, let me say that the compromise generates \$80 billion of sequester increases over 2 years, with the increase split evenly between defense and non-defense programs, and an additional \$16 billion in discretionary funding over a 2-year period. I am hoping that this will help many.

As I indicated, I am supporting breast cancer research. It will help the National Institutes of Health. It will help fill the seats for so many parents

who need Head Start resources for their children.

Having traveled with my congressional colleagues, I know that diplomatic security is a vital component to protecting our Foreign Service officers. And then it will improve, if you will, the day-to-day functions of this government.

I am glad, as I indicated, with respect to the Medicare part B premiums, that we will not see the 54 percent increase that I think was the number, and that the increase will be somewhere around 18 to 20 percent. We want it to be zero.

I want my seniors to know that we are continuing to fight as your increases in prescription drugs and service under Medicare part D continue to go down. And, might I just add, that I believe it is important, in addition, that we negotiate the decreasing price of prescription drugs. If you talk to any individual, what they will say is their highest cost, part of their highest cost, whether it is seniors or families, is the cost of prescription drugs. So I think it is very important.

I think I want to look more into, Mr. Speaker, the Social Security disability fix that is in this budget to ensure that no one sees any loss and cuts in their benefits. We just can't stand for that. Social Security recipients, as much as people want to clarify them as some having perpetrated fraud, they do not, Mr. Speaker.

As I close, let me say I want to protect those who are disabled. We are going to continue to look at this, even down to the moment of voting, to make sure that the budget brings about success and help and not harm.

I ask my colleagues to be deliberative in this debate.

LET'S KEEP OUR ATHLETES HEALTHY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak to all the student athletes, the parents of student athletes, athletic trainers, and coaches out there: Sports build character. I want to make sure we are using technology, science, data analytics, and best practices to keep our student athletes practicing, performing, and competing in a safe and responsible manner.

I recall, as a former high school and college athlete, the pregame and prepractice routines that my coaches used to require before we could start to play. And while sports provide great enjoyment for athletes, fans, and coaches, they also pose health risks; some of them are unavoidable, but some are preventable.

By utilizing data and technology, we can establish best practices so our athletes can remain healthy and compete, and our sports teams can succeed. We can do that and still make certain injuries more preventable in the process.

In 2015, we have watches that provide real-time data on our heart rate, caloric intake, and blood pressure to smartphones that can then be shared with coaches, parents, and physicians; and that is just an Apple iWatch or a Fitbit.

Data analytics and sports go hand in hand these days, from mathematical algorithms as to what quarterback will be most successful on a Sunday afternoon, to the data of building a winning baseball team.

Today's athletic success is fueled by skills, knowledge, and teamwork, both on and off the field. Just as we find ways to incorporate technology and data to ensure our next generation of athletes can remain healthy and playing well into old age, we must also encourage investments in the research, innovation, and technology to continue to build upon these already great achievements.

One aspect of this can be found in using data analytics to better understand athletic injuries in our children and student athletes: for example, preemptively identifying vulnerabilities and assessing the lasting impact of other injuries so we can design equipment and enforce rules to most effectively avoid the likelihood of such injuries, but do so without compromising the integrity of the competitive sports we all enjoy watching or participating in.

Health professionals, coaches, trainers, and parents can utilize this data to bring about greater awareness of sound practices that can keep our student athletes healthy and in the game, not on the sidelines.

Every preseason we read in our local newspaper about a student athlete who suffered a concussion during football or soccer practice. In 2013 alone, over 1.2 million children visited emergency rooms for sports-related injuries, and nearly 8 percent of these emergency room visits were concussion-related.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to introduce H. Res. 112, a resolution, the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights, which encourages greater communication, coordination, and teamwork among coaches, parents, teachers, and medical professionals to ensure that our children receive adequate training, safe equipment and facilities, and immediate, on-site injury assessment.

The very data and tools we use to generate information like RBIs or yards per carry can be used to study incidence of injury, the impact of certain dietary habits on developing athletes, better training practices, and a host of ways to improve the safe and responsible athletic experience for our youngest athletes.

With the support of over 100 diverse organizations dedicated to improving the health of our student athletes, including the National Athletic Trainers Association, the American Football Coaches Association, the American Heart Association, the National Association of State Boards of Education,

and the American Academy of Pediatrics, H. Res. 112 is just one step towards encouraging and emphasizing the use, sharing, and incorporation of data and innovation in improving the safety of athletes and avoiding injury.

While that effort deals with on-the-field success of our student athletes, just as important is making sure we are giving our next generation the tools they need in innovation and analytics. In Congress, we should enable continued research by making a commitment to providing the next generation of innovators with the tools to learn, develop, and ultimately succeed.

Indeed, STEM skills, the foundation of innovation, lies in a dynamic, motivated, and a well-educated workforce equipped with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As a member of the Congressional STEM Caucus, I will continue to be an advocate for continued funding of STEM curriculum in schools so that we can equip the next generation of scientists and mathematicians with the tools to succeed. STEM classroom lessons can be applied to sports and the data-collection process. Our STEM students will play a major role in leading the way for greater success on the field.

The bottom line, we must all work together to continue to keep our favorite athletes and our children and our teams on the field and in the game, prevent injuries, and encourage life-long habits that will allow our children to lead healthier lives. By encouraging the use of technology, we can ensure our student athletes, our athletic trainers, our parents, and our coaches have the tools needed to keep our athletes healthy and on the field instead of on the sidelines.

RESULTS OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. TROTT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TROTT. Mr. Speaker, here in Congress we deal with a great number of different matters, and we vote. Sometimes we win, and sometimes we lose. But I thought it was worth spending a moment this morning to take a look at how the Iran nuclear deal is going. We are 10 days since the deal has been formally adopted, and here is the update:

The Supreme Leader has already begun redefining and testing the agreement. Earlier this month, Iran tested its new ballistic missile. The missile has a 1,000-mile range, can carry a 1,600-pound payload. The only practical use for this ballistic missile is to carry a nuclear warhead.

The day after the test, Iran convicted The Washington Post journalist they have been holding. The day after that, Iran arrested, apparently, an American businessman.

In recent weeks, Iran has begun partnering with Russia to undermine our policy and goals in Syria. And, of

course, Iran continues to hold the four Americans.

This deal was predicated on Iran changing its rogue behavior. We are 10 days into this deal, and so far, I have to say, we are not off to a very good start.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that constituents know why their Members vote for and against different things.

Yesterday, we saw the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank, and I voted "no" on that. Of course, I, like probably every single Member of Congress, have businesses in the district that I represent that use the Export-Import Bank to further their business, hire their employees, and help their community.

So why would somebody vote against the Export-Import Bank? I am here to tell you why.

We have a tradition in America of a free-market value and its wanted standing in the world. It is not by a corrupt system of cronyism and political favor, and that is what the Export-Import Bank is to me.

Unfortunately, while many small businesses in every community use the Export-Import Bank, fully 98 percent of businesses don't use the Export-Import Bank to do their exporting—98 percent. But that is not really the issue. The issue is other things.

For instance, between 2007 and 2014, more than 51 percent of all Ex-Im subsidies benefited just 10—10—corporations. One in particular benefited from \$66.7 billion in subsidies during the past 7 years.

We can't fix Social Security, and we can't afford our military. But we can sure afford for 10 corporations to get 51 percent, because it is not really about the small business in your community, generally speaking. As a matter of fact, foreign firms that receive most of Ex-Im financing are large corporations that primarily purchase exports from U.S. conglomerates, not from Main Street businesses.

Five of the top 10 buyers are state-controlled and rake in millions of dollars from their own governments, in addition to Ex-Im Bank subsidies that the taxpayers are on the hook for.

Five of 10 are involved in exploration, development, and production of oil or natural gas, these foreign firms collecting subsidies from American taxpayers at the same time that this administration is restricting domestic oil and gas operations right here at home. Consequently, the Federal Government has doubly disadvantaged U.S. energy firms through excessive regulation and Ex-Im Bank subsidies granted to foreign competitors.

Now, sometimes in Washington it is not what you know, but it is who you

know. Of the 16 members of the Ex-Im Bank's 2014 advisory committee, half, fully half, were executives at companies or unions that directly benefited from Ex-Im financing during their term—fully half.

Does that sound remotely suspicious to anybody?

Another five members represent companies or unions that received Ex-Im assistance shortly before they joined, and I will give you an example.

Since 2011, former Energy Secretary and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has held a seat on Spanish energy company Abengoa's international advisory board. Shortly after joining the firm, Mr. Richardson was appointed to the Ex-Im advisory board, right around the same time the two Ex-Im Bank loans benefiting Abengoa were issued. Fascinating coincidence. Those taxpayer-backed loans totaled around \$150 million.

Supporters of Ex-Im argue that the advisory committee members being associated with their beneficiaries is a positive feature. To the contrary, I think it shows that a corporate cronyism atmosphere exists at Ex-Im and will continue to exist at Ex-Im.

The office of the IG and the GAO, the Government Accountability Office, repeatedly document mismanagement, dysfunction within Ex-Im, including inefficient policies and procedures to guard against waste, fraud, and abuse.

□ 1100

Fully 124 investigations have been initiated between October 2007 and March 2014, as well as 792 separate claims involving more than \$500 million, and 74 administrative actions since April of 2009 in which bank officials were forced to act internally on the basis of investigations by the inspector general.

The Congressional Budget Office reported that Ex-Im programs actually operate at a deficit, because we also are told that it makes the American taxpayer money; but we don't really know, because they use their own accounting system not used anywhere else. Actually, the CBO says that will cost taxpayers \$2 billion in the next decade.

And you wonder why certain Members of Congress don't vote for this thing. It is not about the small businesses in our communities that are trying to do a good job and play by the rules, because they are doing a good job and playing by the rules. But there is a bigger issue here. There is more to the story.

The new bill that we just passed guarantees an audit every 4 years—every 4 years. But keep in mind that Ex-Im currently has around 30 open investigations, 75 years of combined prison time, 90 criminal indictments and complaints, 49 criminal judgments, more than \$223 million in court-ordered fines and restitution, and I could go on.

Mr. Speaker, the Ex-Im Bank doesn't do everything it could for small business, but it does a lot for people that

know people in this town. That is why it must be reformed or ended.

UNRWA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for years, I have been pushing for the United States to reexamine its relationship with UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

UNRWA employs individuals affiliated with Hamas, a U.S.-designated terrorist organization that openly and loudly incites violence against Israel; yet the United States—which means the U.S. taxpayer—sends nearly \$300 million a year to this organization, to UNRWA without questioning, without scrutiny.

Just last week, the U.N. quietly suspended several individuals after allegations of incitement were brought forth from the NGO U.N. Watch. And we thank U.N. Watch for carefully looking over this organization.

These allegations, Mr. Speaker, are just the tip of the iceberg. We must not continue to send taxpayer dollars to UNRWA—again, that is the United Nations Relief and Works Agency—and, subsequently, to individuals tied to the terror group Hamas in violation of our laws.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, I reintroduced my bill that would stop all U.S. contributions to UNRWA until the organization purges its payroll of individuals who incite violence against Israel and until that organization ends all its affiliations with Hamas. Is that really too much to ask, that we should demand that before U.N. agencies get one penny of U.S. taxpayer money that they must not incite violence and that they must no longer affiliate themselves with a U.S.-designated terrorist organization?

So I urge my colleagues to support this measure, to sign on as cosponsors, and to lead in the effort to fight the incitement to violence against Israel.

HONORING JACINTO ACEBAL

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an extraordinary south Floridian and one of the most highly decorated veterans of the Vietnam war, my dear friend Jacinto Acebal.

Just last January, Mr. Acebal—or “Ace,” as we all call him—was diagnosed with larynx cancer. The news hit Ace like a ton of bricks; and, like so many others diagnosed with this horrible disease, the chances of a favorable outcome looked disheartening.

However, no stranger to tough situations, Ace made a commitment to his family that he was not going without a fight. After a total of 8 chemotherapy sessions, 33 radiation treatments, and 3 different surgeries, Ace is no longer bedridden and has been declared cancer-free.

So I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jacinto “Ace” Acebal

on this incredible milestone and wishing him many years of good health throughout his life.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Bishop Mar Awa Royel, Assyrian Church of the East, Salida, California, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit; Amen.

Father of mercy and God of every consolation, we come to You at this hour asking You to bless our civil servants as they labor for our country and its citizens. Grant them Your wisdom and enlighten them with Your truth that they might serve the greater good of our country.

Strengthen them to be instruments of peace and justice in our society today. May they bring about reconciliation and hope in our communities and neighborhoods, and may they be exemplary citizens and servants to their constituents, without distinction of race or creed.

Father, we ask You to bless our land, which has been a beacon of hope and a refuge for the oppressed and the marginalized. Grant freedom to the captive, relief to the suffering, and help us all to construct a better and safer tomorrow for our future generations of Americans.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP MAR AWA ROYEL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to introduce to the House our guest chaplain, Bishop Mar Awa Royel.

Bishop Royel currently presides over the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East's Diocese of California and serves as Secretary of the Holy Synod. He was consecrated as a Bishop in 2008 and is the first American-born Bishop of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Bishop Royel is one of five trustees of the Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organization. He is also the president of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations and Educational Development.

I have been honored to know Bishop Royel and work with him to help raise awareness of the plight of Assyrians in the Middle East who are facing unspeakable violence and persecution. Many Central Valley residents have family members who are suffering under ISIL's campaign of terror. I am thankful for Bishop Royel's efforts. Bishop Royel is a gifted speaker, esteemed author, and leader of California's large and faithful Assyrian community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming him today. We thank him for offering this afternoon's opening prayer in the United States House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PAULA NICHOLS

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize South La Porte County Special Education Cooperative Director Paula Nichols for her dedication to providing services to nearly

1,500 students of varying disabilities. The co-op employs 97 teachers and 50 paraprofessionals, ensuring that students receive high-quality instruction and have positive learning experiences.

Currently, the demand for qualified teachers, especially in special ed, is increasing at a pace far greater than existing communities can produce. My thanks for Paula's dedication.

This co-op provides students with services that empower students to become active members of society based on their individual strengths and abilities. Last year, I visited the South La Porte County Special Education Cooperative and saw firsthand the great work of this organization.

I am grateful to Paula Nichols and the co-op for working with parents, schools, students, and the community to create an environment that celebrates and embraces individuality and accommodates diverse learning needs. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Paula Nichols for her tireless dedication to students in La Porte County.

PROTECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING VICTIMS ACT

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This month is a time for all of us to examine the work that must be done so that every American can live free from the fear of domestic violence.

All of us would do well this month to consider the destructive role that guns can and do play in incidents of domestic violence. From 2001 until 2012, 6,410 women were killed by a gun wielded by an intimate partner. That number is nearly 1,100 more than the total number of American soldiers who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan over the same time period.

Despite this fact, many domestic abusers can still legally purchase a gun. There is no Federal prohibition to prevent the sale of a gun to someone convicted of a misdemeanor crime in a dating partner relationship or someone convicted of misdemeanor stalking offenses.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act, which Congresswoman LOIS CAPPAS has introduced, to close these loopholes immediately.

Let's get to work to end this epidemic and protect the lives of women across our country during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

OXI DAY

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because 75 years ago this week, the

Nazis were sweeping through Europe with frightening ease. This was the backdrop on the early morning of October 28, 1940, when the Axis forces requested a meeting with the Greek Prime Minister, Ioannis Metaxas.

The Axis' agenda for the meeting was a short one. They came with only one simple demand: Greece must unconditionally surrender and allow the Axis forces unfettered use of strategic military sites or the Greek people would face war.

The Axis forces clearly underestimated the resolve of the Greeks. Prime Minister Metaxas shocked the Axis powers by giving his now famous one-word answer: "Oxi."

While others in Europe were choosing to stay out of the conflict in hopes that they would be spared, the Greeks willingly inserted themselves into the fray, costing hundreds of thousands of Greek lives, but saving millions by continually stifling the Axis forces.

Greece's refusal saved countless lives as Greek forces fought heroically; but Greece paid a terrible price as well, losing practically an entire generation of men and women.

As we remember Oxi Day and the bravery of the Greek people, let us also remember the millions of Greeks who perished so that Hitler might be stopped.

TRINITY RIVER MISSION

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Trinity River Mission for their dedicated efforts to ensure that all children can achieve academic success. I recently visited Trinity River Mission and was so moved and impressed by what I saw and learned.

Today, the Trinity River Mission is a volunteer-based community learning center, servicing the educational needs of children, youth, and families in West Dallas. The organization provides a safe environment, nutritional meals, and an after-school program to support youth in grades K through 12 at absolutely no cost to their families.

What I saw that day was hundreds of kids and volunteers like Dolores Sosa Green, Rosie Cisneros, and other volunteers who have come back to the community to work with these kids to show them that they can achieve anything through education.

BREE SANDLIN

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

I would like to share the story of a breast cancer survivor I met last week at home. Her name is Bree Sandlin. She is married to Stephen. They have

two sons, Beck and Elliott. Elliott is a master Lego engineer.

On July 25, 2012, Bree was diagnosed with stage III triple-negative breast cancer. After major surgery and chemotherapy, Bree was cancer free by February 13, 2013.

A proud Texas Aggie, Bree has embraced life after her cancer. She climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, 19,341 feet above sea level. This past Sunday, she ran the Marine Corps Marathon with a time of 5 hours, 39 minutes, and 10 seconds.

We can beat breast cancer. Just ask Bree Sandlin.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, as LGBT History Month draws to a close, I rise today to recognize Chicago LGBT activist Henry Gerber, a man well ahead of his time.

Mr. Gerber founded the Society for Human Rights in 1924. It was the first chartered gay rights organization in the United States. His home in Chicago's north side, my district, served as the society's headquarters, and from there he published the first-known gay interest periodical in the U.S.

Unfortunately, his activism carried risks. Less than a year after he founded the society, police raided his home, arrested him, and confiscated his possessions. He was put on trial three times. Although he was never convicted of a crime, he lost his life savings, his reputation, and his job.

Thankfully, our country has come a long way in the fight for equality, but we can all learn from Henry Gerber's struggle for human rights in the face of overwhelming adversity.

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL TIMOTHY REDDY

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Reddy, a resident of Baldwin County, Alabama.

Colonel Reddy graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1976 and was Active-Duty military for 23 years, including a combat tour with the 82nd Airborne Division in Grenada.

Following his military service, Colonel Reddy began a 15-year career teaching math and coaching soccer and swim team at Fairhope High School in my district. He was known for pushing his students to the next level and making them better people. I can personally attest to Colonel Reddy's teaching ability because my children were his students and they considered him one of their all-time favorite teachers. And he was tough.

So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to share our deepest condolences with Colonel Reddy's loved ones. He was a great American and an extraordinary educator. Colonel Reddy made a positive impact in the lives of so many, and his legacy will live on in his students, his family, and his friends.

□ 1215

FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Farm to School Month. Having healthy foods in our schools is crucial. We know that, when students are provided with wholesome foods, they are more likely to pay attention in class and to learn. In addition, by introducing kids to a variety of fruits and vegetables at a young age, we can teach them how to eat healthy over the long term.

We are fortunate in my district to have farmers who grow some of the best food in the world. If our children know where their food comes from, they are also more likely to be passionate and connected to their food choices.

Across our region hundreds of different fruits and vegetables are grown. These crops provide fresh, quality foods to our schools. Why buy berries from another State when we can purchase them from our local farmers?

I strongly support the efforts of our local Farm to School movement and recognize those working to increase access to nutritious foods in schools.

WORKING TOWARDS A CURE

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and I rise today to call attention and awareness to this disease and to recognize the many women and men in America who are fighting it.

The American Cancer Society estimates that more than 230,000 women and 2,350 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and over 40,000 women and men will, sadly, lose their battle.

Every day brilliant researchers in our country are working towards a cure. We must honor their commitment with full funding of the National Institutes of Health to ensure that we are meeting our commitment to them and the millions of lives affected by cancer each year.

That is why I supported the 21st Century Cures bill that passed the House earlier this year with a majority of each party in support. That is also why I am renewing my call to double NIH funding over the coming decade to re-

cruit, retain, and invest in the people and research that will save lives, grow our economy, and save us trillions.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for the "moonshot," as our Vice President called it earlier this week. It is time for this Congress to make curing cancer its signature priority.

LET'S CLOSE THE LOOPHOLES

(Mr. DEUTCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, what do the mayors of cities like Houston, Texas; Tallahassee, Florida; and Portland, Maine, have in common? They all support closing loopholes in our background check laws, loopholes that let convicted felons and those with severe mental illness buy deadly weapons. That is just one of the findings from Politico magazine's recent "What Works" survey of mayors from across the country.

In red States and in blue States in every part of this country, 90 percent of mayors say they want stronger background checks, 86 percent say they want the gun show loophole closed, and 78 percent want those subject to restraining orders barred from ever buying guns. It is no surprise why.

America's mayors witness up close the gun violence that plagues our country every day. They know the victims of the homicides, the suicides, the accidental shootings, and the domestic gun violence that leave families forever shattered. They know how hollow the gun lobby sounds when it says there is nothing we can do to prevent more tragedies, and they know that it is within the power of this Congress to fix the laws that do not work and to save the lives that need not be lost.

ACUPUNCTURE FOR HEROES AND SENIORS ACT

(Ms. JUDY CHU of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, acupuncture is one of the oldest medical treatments in the world. Here in the U.S., the demand for acupuncture has grown significantly in recent years.

In fact, about 4 in 10 American adults use alternative medicines. When other treatments may not help, acupuncture can treat chronic pain, mental health issues, substance abuse, and many other illnesses.

I will never forget hearing the testimony of a woman who had severe back pain, but did not want invasive surgery, as suggested by her doctor, and possible addiction to morphine. Instead, she sought acupuncture, and it worked for her.

Indeed, the National Institutes of Health indicates that, for some medical issues, acupuncture can provide the needed relief. It is my goal to make this treatment available to all Ameri-

cans, including seniors, our brave servicemembers, and respected veterans.

Today I am introducing a bill to do just that. This bill, the Acupuncture for Heroes and Seniors Act, will expand access to acupuncture services to these communities because they deserve to have all the tools at their disposal to live long and healthy lives.

RECOGNIZING DANNY KORNEGAY

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, this country is blessed with incredibly talented and God-fearing families and individuals. One great example is Danny Kornegay, a constituent and friend who was recently named the 2015 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year.

Danny began farming 25 acres right after graduating high school and during the past 45 years has grown his operation to more than 5,500 acres, producing tobacco, sweet potatoes, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and peanuts. He also finishes about 8,000 to 10,000 head of hog per year.

My family and I have known Danny for many years. Farm families like his prove agriculture is in very capable hands, and they are the reason America continues to produce the best and safest food supply in the world.

Danny's commitment to agriculture, our community, and our State is unparalleled. I know his family and many friends are proud of him. In fact, we are all proud of him.

PASS DAPA FOR SOPHIE CRUZ AND OTHERS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, the poster beside me depicts the moment in Pope Francis' parade through D.C. when a little girl snuck through the barrier and was lifted into the Pope's arms on live TV.

That little girl is a constituent of mine, Sophie Cruz, a 5-year-old from the City of South Gate. She is one of 5 million children who are American citizens, but whose undocumented parents face deportation. She gave the Pope a T-shirt with a message in Spanish that read: "Pope, rescue DAPA so the legalization can be your blessing."

Deferred Action for Parental Accountability, or DAPA, is a program that would stop the deportation of parents of American children. So far, DAPA faces strong opposition. But is this really what we want, to separate families, to leave American children in the United States without their parents?

I could not be more proud to have Sophie as my constituent. Last night my office honored her with a congressional certificate at a ceremony at the South Gate City Hall. I wish that I

could have been there last night, but I want Sophie to know that I support her and that I will be fighting for DAPA for her and for the 5 million children just like her across this great country.

WE MUST COMBAT THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to discuss new bipartisan steps my House New Hampshire colleague, FRANK GUINTA, and I are taking to combat the heroin epidemic seizing New Hampshire and many other States across this country.

Last year in New Hampshire alone we experienced 321 drug-related deaths, according to the State medical examiner's office, and the rate of drug-related fatalities in 2015 is expected to increase.

I continue to see the impacts of this terrible epidemic as I meet with affected communities and stakeholders across my district. From educators to police officers, to advocates and health providers, it is only when we stand united and coordinate our efforts that we will be able to halt the destruction that this dangerous substance is causing all across our communities.

That is why I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me and my fellow Representative from New Hampshire in our Bipartisan Task Force to Combat the Heroin Epidemic. This task force will focus on finding solutions to the growing epidemic. We believe we must do everything possible to spread awareness, increase educational efforts, and hear from affected families and individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join us to end this epidemic in our communities.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL MONTH

(Ms. PINGREE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, October is National Farm to School Month, and I want to talk today about the recent gains our schools have made in connecting students with local food.

Across the country, the Farm to School movement has inspired over 40,000 schools to spend more of their food dollars locally, to create healthier meal options, and to teach students about growing and preparing local food. These efforts have brought numerous benefits, like new markets for local agricultural producers, better nutrition for students, and less food being thrown away in the trash.

I am proud that schools in my State of Maine have helped lead the way; but, like others, they encounter many challenges in replacing highly processed food with fresh ingredients.

The USDA Farm to School grants have eased that transition for many schools by helping them make needed changes in procurement, facilities, and training. As we celebrate Farm to School efforts this month and look toward child nutrition reauthorization, I encourage my colleagues to support increased funding for this program so more communities can reap the benefits.

HONORING MAJOR PHYLLIS PELKY

(Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Air Force Major Phyllis Pelky, who died earlier this month in a helicopter crash in Kabul, Afghanistan.

As a Major in the Air Force, Phyllis Pelky served her nation with distinction as aide-de-camp to the superintendent of the Air Force Academy. Major Pelky had been deployed in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan, working as the deputy manpower chief of the American Train, Advise and Assist Command.

As we take this moment to honor the service and patriotism of Major Pelky and recognize her sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice as a member of our armed services, we also thank her for her contributions in the classroom.

Major Pelky was a beloved humanities teacher at the Rio Rancho High School. Her commitment to her students, combined with her enthusiasm, encouraged them to learn. She left a lasting impact on those who were fortunate to have her as a teacher. Her enduring spirit will live on through the many students she inspired.

As we mourn the passing of Phyllis Pelky and celebrate her life, my thoughts and prayers are with her husband, her two sons, her family, and the Rio Rancho community during this sad time.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. One in three women report experiencing domestic violence throughout their lifetimes. In North Carolina alone, 108 people died because of domestic violence in 2013.

Earlier today Ron Kimble, deputy city manager of Charlotte, who resides in my district, spoke at the new Members meeting about the severity of domestic violence. Mr. Kimble and his wife, Jan, lost their daughter Jamie, an only child, to domestic violence in 2012.

Jamie, a 31-year-old graduate of the University of North Carolina and rising star at Coca-Cola Consolidated, worked

up the courage to leave her boyfriend, who was controlling and emotionally abusive. Just 3 months after leaving him, he took her life and then he took his own in a murder-suicide.

While Jamie can no longer share her story, her parents—Mr. and Mrs. Kimble—wanted me to share it with you today to shed light on the tragedy that often emerges from domestic violence.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Teach Safe Relationships Act because I believe including safe relationship behavior curriculum in sex education will help combat domestic violence. This Domestic Violence Awareness Month, I urge this Congress to pass the Teach Safe Relationships Act and support other critical domestic violence legislation.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST BREAST CANCER

(Ms. GRAHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and all the men and women working to raise awareness in north Florida.

About one in eight U.S. women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. Approximately 43,000 will be diagnosed in Florida in this year alone. But in north Florida, we are fighting back.

Local charities, media outlets, survivors, and strong women currently fighting the disease are standing up to be heard and reminding everyone to "Think Pink."

Each year we make greater strides against breast cancer. Together we are going to beat it and save lives.

□ 1230

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last evening, I voted against reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank, a Federal entity that financially backs purchases of American goods and services by providing taxpayer-backed loans and loan guarantees to foreign companies and governments.

While the Ex-Im Bank can help American industry break into foreign markets, too often it underwrites purchases by companies that directly compete with domestic companies, placing them at a significant disadvantage. For example, when foreign airlines purchase aircraft at lower costs with Ex-Im Bank backing, they are able to charge lower fares and outcompete our domestic airlines.

The Federal Government should ensure that competition occurs on a level

playing field, without tilting it toward one side or another.

Furthermore, Ex-Im Bank supporters used a discharge petition to bring this bill to the floor, a parliamentary tactic which limits the use of amendments and creates an end run around the normal committee process that should apply to every measure considered by Congress.

It is the American public that should bear the risk of these loans, and, at the very minimum, they deserve an honest debate on this floor on the best way to move forward in promoting our exports abroad.

BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

(Mr. CONNOLLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan budget agreement that will come before us here in the House soon. It restores critical funding for our Nation's defense and domestic priorities in a balanced fashion, sparing us from the mindless meat-ax cuts of sequestration.

Under previous Republican budget proposals, spending on domestic programs would have fallen to its lowest level in 50 years. It is the threat of uncertainty, of those indiscriminate cuts, that has held back our economy.

This agreement also pulls us back from the brink of defaulting on our Nation's credit. Although I am astounded at how some of our colleagues continue to advocate for such a catastrophe, it would send a shock wave through the global economy. We avert that in this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, governing is about the art of compromise. Today's agreement, not perfect, represents that principle. I hope your successor and, frankly, more of the Members on your side of the aisle, will embrace that spirit moving forward in this Congress so, once again, we can start delivering for the American people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1314, ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 495 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 495

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the Ma-

jority Leader or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment with the amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution modified by the amendment printed in part B of that report. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader or their respective designees. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), my good friend, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Rules Committee met and reported a rule for consideration of H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the majority leader that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314, with an amendment consisting of the text of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader.

Mr. Speaker, I want to start with a phrase I often share with my fellow Members: In a negotiation, you are always going to get less than you want and give up more than you would like. I think that is a fitting way to describe the bill we find ourselves presented with today. In an era of divided government, that is the reality we find ourselves in.

At the beginning of the negotiation, the President demanded a clean debt ceiling increase with no changes and no conditions. In addition, he wanted more spending and higher taxes. Given that, I think the deal that we have before us is a testament to our leadership's ability to negotiate.

As I said yesterday, Mr. Speaker, nobody is going to be popping champagne corks at either end of Pennsylvania Avenue over this bill. It is what most things are in divided government, in a system of checks and balances, and in an era of polarized politics. It is a deal that leaves both sides unsatisfied, but it is a deal that avoids default, prevents a government shutdown, and adequately funds our military. Moreover, it reforms and funds the Social Secu-

rity Disability Insurance Fund, saving it from bankruptcy, and prevents a crippling increase in the premiums paid by many people who receive Medicare part B.

There are any number of provisions that Members on both sides can point to as reasons to oppose this legislation. I, myself, would have negotiated a different deal. But in determining one's support for this legislation, I encourage Members to look at what the alternative would be, and that is this: the first default on our Nation's debt in the history of this country, significant cuts to our military in a time when we need our military the most, and an almost 50 percent increase in Medicare premiums for many of our seniors. That is the reality of what happens if we do nothing.

Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by a number of provisions in this legislation. First, just like the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, this legislation sets forth 2 years of budget certainty for the Appropriations Committee. That certainty puts us on a path to ensure consideration of full-year spending bills for the next 2 years, just as we were able to accomplish this past fiscal year.

In addition, this budget certainty provides the needed investment for our military. With the ongoing conflicts across the Middle East, Russian activity in Eastern Europe, and Chinese claims in the South China Sea, it is clearer now than ever that America needs a robust military.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly, all these discretionary spending increases are fully paid for by offsets in mandatory programs.

In addition to these critical investments, the legislation before us makes a number of commonsense, structural reforms to SSDI, like requiring a medical review before awarding benefits, and expanding Cooperative Disability Investigations units to investigate sophisticated fraud schemes before benefits are awarded. These reforms both ensure that the disability trust fund will be able to pay full benefits and ensure that those who truly are disabled have access to this important program.

Beyond that, Mr. Speaker, this legislation realizes over \$30 billion in Medicare savings within the budget window and countless billions in years to come.

I am pleased to again be talking about the real drivers of our debt: the two-thirds of our government spending that is on autopilot. If we are unable to deal with these mandatory programs, they will end up bankrupting us.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this legislation suspends the debt ceiling through March 15, 2017. Since its inception in 1917, 20 debt limit laws also included a change in fiscal policy. I am pleased that this debt limit increase is yet again accompanied by mandatory reforms.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I would have preferred stronger reforms, but, in this era of divided government with a

Democratic President and a Republican Congress, no one will be able to get everything they want.

The President wanted a clean debt limit increase. Congress wanted significant entitlement reforms. What we are left with is a compromise which lowers the trajectory of our debt, but also assures the world that the United States will pay its bills.

While not a perfect piece of legislation, I believe this moves us in the right direction and funds critical priorities for our Nation. I urge support for the rule and the underlying legislation.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am here to do my part of the rule. I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, my friend, for yielding me the time, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement before us. Instead of the brinksmanship and short-term stopgaps that we have seen, we have, I am glad to say, a 2-year budget agreement that eases the burden of the damaging sequester cuts, protects seniors, affirms the full faith and credit of the United States, and provides much-needed economic stability and security to our Nation.

This agreement provides relief from 90 percent of the sequester's cuts for the next 2 years. While we should eliminate the sequester in its entirety, this is a welcome respite from the sequester's grip, ensuring a renewed investment in research, infrastructure, and early childhood education.

The agreement also includes a clean way to pay the debts that Congress has already incurred and will eliminate the threat of a debt limit standoff for the next 2 years.

We should remember that the last time politics were played over the debt limit, our credit rating was downgraded for the first time in our history and our economy suffered.

Because of this agreement, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the certainty that this budget agreement creates will encourage the growth of 340,000 new jobs in 2016 alone.

The Los Angeles Times Editorial Board wrote this morning that the budget agreement will provide "a welcome measure of stability at a time of increasing anxiety about the global economy."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the text of the editorial from the Los Angeles Times entitled "JOHN BOEHNER'S Last Deal Leaves Congress Better Off."

[From the Los Angeles Times, Oct. 28, 2015]

JOHN BOEHNER'S LAST DEAL LEAVES
CONGRESS BETTER OFF

In a parting gift to the conservatives who hectored him out of office, House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) negotiated a budget agreement with Senate leaders and the Obama administration that increases federal spending and raises the debt ceiling in exchange for—well, not much that Republicans

covet. There are no big changes in entitlements, no defunding of Planned Parenthood. Yet this backroom deal delivers the goods that matter most: It will avert the risk of a shutdown until after the next president takes office, providing a welcome measure of stability at a time of increasing anxiety about the global economy.

Boehner had said he wanted to "clean the barn" for his replacement—most likely Rep. Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.)—which meant disposing of four divisive issues with rapidly approaching deadlines. The federal government is days away from hitting its borrowing limit. Federal agencies are slated to run out of funding in early December. The Social Security trust fund for disability benefits is expected to be empty by late 2016. And millions of elderly and disabled Americans face a whopping 52% increase in their Medicare Part B premiums at year's end.

The compromise negotiated by congressional leaders and the White House would resolve all of these issues in the time-honored way: giving everyone much of what they want, then paying for it with budget gimmicks. The debt ceiling would be suspended until March 2017, the budget caps lifted for two fiscal years, disability benefits assured through 2022 and Medicare premium increases made less dramatic. Without these steps, Congress risks defaulting on debts, forcing a government shutdown and delivering a painful financial blow to vulnerable Americans. None of those outcomes should even be contemplable, and yet Congress' record of dysfunction over the last four years makes them all real possibilities absent a deal like the one Boehner negotiated.

Obviously, it would be better for Congress to make real choices about spending instead of relying on accounting legerdemain to make the numbers look good. The proposed fix for disability insurance, for example, would take the money out of a fund for future retirement benefits; that's a reprieve, not a solution. But when Congress ignores a problem until the last minute, it takes real solutions off the table, leaving lawmakers to choose between pragmatism and the sort of posturing that dissident House Republicans have made their stock in trade. Credit Boehner with opting for one last deal rather than showing the country again that the House GOP's reach exceeds its grasp.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this agreement avoids the harmful cuts to Medicare and Social Security beneficiaries by reforming tax compliance among hedge funds and private equity funds, ensuring that people in the top bracket pay their fair share.

The agreement also limits any increase in the Medicare part B premiums for 2016, protecting millions of seniors from a roughly 50 percent rate hike. It does this by spreading out the cost of replenishing the Medicare trust fund over a number of years, and it prevents this kind of rate hike from happening again in 2017.

The health savings included in this agreement focus on well-documented areas of overpayment and improved program integrity, clearing out waste in the system.

What's more, the agreement avoids the deep cuts to Social Security Disability Insurance benefits that would occur at the end of next year, ensuring it continues to pay benefits without reducing benefit levels or imposing new eligibility restrictions. Social Security Disability will survive, but with re-

forms to ensure accountability and fiscal prudence that are long overdue.

These are good steps forward. The agreement represents significant progress for hardworking American families, and for the next 2 years, we have come out of the sequester's shadow. Together, we have found a way forward to confront the challenges we face as a nation.

This agreement is the first bipartisan budget bill we have seen in quite awhile. It serves as a roadmap that will lead us through the appropriations process; but until we finish that process, we are still on the path toward a government shutdown.

However, with the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank yesterday and now the introduction of this budget agreement, I am hopeful that this House can make progress on issues that are important to America and to our economy. We have sort of grown accustomed to governing by crisis with stopgap measures that do harm to the Nation.

When JOHN BOEHNER assumed the Speakership, he promised an open process for all Members; but what we have seen is that one party has been consistently shut out and only allowed to participate in fits and starts, which silences half the voices of our Nation. We have seen politicized select committees and political maneuvers, and we hope that the cries to the Speaker-in-waiting for open legislative process will include both parties and include all voices.

This agreement, with a 2-year outlook, with input from leadership from both Chambers of Congress and the White House, has, perhaps, marked a turning point. Only time will tell.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to make a couple of points. First, I want to thank my good friend for her work on this and her cooperation. I agree with many of the points she made, certainly about the fact that I hope this heralds a new beginning.

Worth noting, we did have a budget agreement 2 years ago, and that worked pretty well for a couple of years. I am pleased to see that this follow-on agreement is here before us today. I think it will give us 2 years of stability.

My friend will understand if I take mild exception with some of her remarks about being shut out of the process. Those of us who were here in the minority on the Republican side of the aisle certainly remember not being allowed to offer amendments to the Affordable Care Act, seeing the stimulus act come to the floor with no committee, and, frankly, having the long-time practice of appropriations bills coming under open rules totally suspended.

But, in the spirit of cooperation today, I will leave it at that. Let's look

ahead. I think my friend is exactly right when she suggests this bill not only solves some important issues that are in front of us in a bipartisan way, a give-and-take way, but creates an opening and an opportunity going forward.

I really think, if we get this rule passed—and I am sure we will—and we get the underlying legislation passed—I am sure we will be able to do that as well—that next year offers us an opportunity to do what we have not done around here, really, since 2006, and that is see every single appropriations bill come to the floor under an open rule so that Members on both sides can participate in the most important process of governing ourselves, and that is the appropriation of the taxpayers' dollars for the functioning of government.

If we can build on this and achieve that, I think a lot of people on both sides of the aisle who are concerned about regular order and who, frankly, have never seen it work will have an opportunity to watch it work.

I would suggest the fact that we already have an agreement as to what the top-line number will be on what we spend in the normal appropriations process might make it easier for a lot of the votes to be more bipartisan.

Frankly, I know that is certainly possible in my committee, the Appropriations Committee, and I think that is something that Members are genuinely looking for: an opportunity to debate priorities and discuss, but also to come together when there is common ground.

Again, I want to look at this bill. I know there will be some controversy about it today and there will be some people who would have liked to have done some things differently. Frankly, I suspect every Member would like to do things differently.

But the reality is we are in a period of divided government. We do operate in a system of checks and balances. It has been an exceptionally polarizing political environment. The fact that, with all of those challenges, the Speaker, the majority leader, the President, and the respective minority leaders of both Chambers could come together and find enough common ground to accomplish the things that this accomplishes is something that we ought to laud, not to disparage.

I look forward to working with my friend. I look forward to this becoming the foundation for a much more productive 2016, where we can do something we have not done for a long time, and that is operate under regular order throughout the entire appropriations process. That is going to be my New Year's resolution after we get an omnibus done.

I think this will set the ground for getting that done by early December and we can have stability next year and an opportunity to legislate the way I think most Members, regardless of party or philosophical point of view, want to legislate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY).

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and the ranking member on the Rules Committee for yielding to me and for her extraordinary leadership for the State of New York and for so many issues before this body.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for this 2-year budget bill and the exemplary bipartisan cooperation that made it possible. Although this bill is by no means perfect, it is a good bill. It is good for the economy and good for the country.

It will ensure our Nation maintains the full faith and credit of global financial markets. It protects millions of Americans from an enormous Medicare premium increase. It frees us from the uncertainty that roils markets and worries businesses, both big and small.

While I support the compromise, I would like to raise some concerns about its impact on hospitals in the district that I represent.

The bill puts restrictions on which hospital-affiliated facilities can be considered outpatient departments and reimbursed at hospital rates.

Under the bill going forward, acquired facilities that are a certain distance from the main campus of hospitals will be reimbursed, but at a lower rate. They will be reimbursed for services as a regular doctor's visit. Existing sites will be grandfathered, but those that are under construction will be exempted and charged the lower rate.

This will be a challenge in areas, like the district that I represent, where increasing demand collides with the lack of physical space to cause scattered hospital-affiliated facilities. I hope to work with my colleagues to improve the changes made to these outpatient services Medicare payments.

I commend all who have worked with such goodwill on this budget. I urge my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to say I think my good friend from New York makes an excellent point. There are going to be some issues like this that I think we need to look at very carefully in the coming weeks and perhaps find some common ground on. In an agreement of this magnitude, occasionally we are going to have some problems.

I have some other areas of concern in some of the offsets, agricultural crop insurance being one of them. I suspect, in the coming weeks, perhaps we can find some common ground on these issues. I certainly hope so.

Of course, if we get an omnibus spending bill done, which this is the foundation or the predecessor for, then we will have a vehicle where perhaps

we can address some of the concerns that my friend raises and as I know others have in different areas with respect to this agreement.

Again, I want to thank my friend for bringing the issues forward. I think they are important to air and make note of. I just pledge that I will do what I can to see if we can find some common ground here and iron out some of these knotty problems that we have.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. COLE. I certainly yield to my friend.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to underscore my appreciation to you and the ranking member for your willingness to work on correcting this.

I believe a correction could literally save taxpayer dollars and be more efficient. The willingness to work together for better government for our country is, I think, a good step forward.

I thank the leaders on the other side of the aisle for approaching this in a bipartisan, cooperative spirit, as you are showing on the floor today. It is better for our country and certainly better for the budget in all respects.

Thank you very, very much. I am extremely appreciative.

Mr. COLE. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend again. I again express my appreciation for the point that she raises and the willingness to work together.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. My scheduled speakers have not arrived, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, today we have before us a 2-year budget agreement that protects seniors, invests in job training, and eases the burden of the sequester.

However, unless we see the process through with the appropriations process, we are still on a path toward shutdown, which is not what the American people want from Congress and what the economy can't stand.

So I urge my colleagues to vote for this bipartisan agreement, for the rule, and the underlying bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to just reiterate a number of points that I opened my remarks with.

First, I don't think this is a perfect bill. I doubt that anybody on this floor does. However, it is the only deal that can be considered in the timeframe we have before the debt limit is breached.

Secondly, the deal ensures an appropriate level of discretionary government spending for the next 2 years, a level that robustly funds our military and ensures America's security.

Finally, this deal is fully paid for and includes mandatory offsets that will build over time, further decreasing the trajectory of our expanding debt, shifting the burden to where the true drivers of the debt are and where the supercommittee was intended to actually

find cuts and brings us back to fiscal balance.

Before I conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker, I also want to add a personal tribute, if I may, to our Speaker. This is probably the last significant piece of legislation that this body will pass under Speaker BOEHNER's leadership. He was instrumental in forging it.

I know there are many people who are critical of particular aspects of this deal or about the process. Indeed, our Speaker himself has used rather colorful language in expressing his opinion of the process by which we arrived at this agreement.

However, I think it is worth noting that, in the finest traditions of this House and the institutions that we all cherish, the Speaker, the President, the majority leader, the minority leader in the House, the minority leader in the Senate, came together, put aside differences, and found common ground.

In doing so, they solved some really difficult issues for us. They dealt with an impending default to make sure that didn't happen. They dealt with a potential government shutdown or at least bought us the time to deal with it between now and December 11.

They made sure that the additional discretionary spending that they both agreed to was offset by a variety of means. They included a really important reform in the Social Security disability system that, again, will keep it from going bankrupt and help millions of Americans who need help.

Finally, they also made sure that millions of Americans who are facing literally 50 percent rate increases under Medicare part B will not have those increases. That is no small achievement.

And JOHN BOEHNER, for 25 years in this institution, from a freshman to the highest pinnacle that we have, the Speakership, has operated with integrity and has operated from principle, but has never been afraid to try and find common ground for people with different points of view. I, for one, appreciate the manner in which he has led our House, the manner in which at the very last minute he continues to work for the good of the American people and to reach across the aisle to find common ground with those with opposing views and opposing partisan affiliations.

I appreciate the manner in which he has dealt with our own Conference, which is the largest since 1928, and, consequently, probably the most fractious. He has worked with Members of differing opinion and found common ground and brought us together.

So I just, again, speaking for myself, want to say how much I have enjoyed, throughout my entire career, having had the opportunity to serve with Speaker BOEHNER, first as a freshman member on his committee when he chaired Education and the Workforce, then at the leadership table when he became the leader of our party, and, finally, just as another Member who ad-

mires and appreciates his many, many accomplishments, his character, and the manner in which he has led.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank the Speaker of the entire House, Mr. BOEHNER, for his distinguished service to this institution and to this country and for being a valued friend and a person that I genuinely admire and I think people on both sides of the aisle genuinely admire.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1453

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HULTGREN) at 2 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 495; and

Adoption of House Resolution 495, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1314, ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 495) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal re-

lating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 325, nays 103, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 577]

YEAS—325

Abraham	Duckworth	Knight
Adams	Duffy	Kuster
Aderholt	Duncan (SC)	Labrador
Aguilar	Duncan (TN)	LaHood
Allen	Ellmers (NC)	LaMalfa
Amash	Emmer (MN)	Lamborn
Amodei	Eshoo	Lance
Ashford	Esty	Latta
Babin	Farenthold	Lawrence
Barletta	Fattah	Levin
Barr	Fincher	Lieu, Ted
Barton	Fitzpatrick	LoBiondo
Beatty	Fleischmann	Long
Benishek	Fleming	Loudermilk
Bilirakis	Flores	Love
Bishop (GA)	Forbes	Lowenthal
Bishop (MI)	Fortenberry	Lucas
Bishop (UT)	Fox	Luetkemeyer
Black	Franks (AZ)	Lujan Grisham
Blackburn	Frelinghuysen	(NM)
Blum	Gabbard	Lummis
Bonamici	Garrett	Lynch
Bost	Gibbs	MacArthur
Boustany	Gibson	Marchant
Boyle, Brendan	Gohmert	Marino
F.	Goodlatte	Massie
Brady (PA)	Gosar	McCarthy
Brady (TX)	Gowdy	McCaul
Brat	Graham	McClintock
Bridenstine	Granger	McCollum
Brooks (AL)	Graves (GA)	McHenry
Brooks (IN)	Graves (LA)	McKinley
Brownley (CA)	Graves (MO)	McMorris
Buchanan	Grayson	Rodgers
Buck	Griffith	McSally
Bucshon	Grothman	Meadows
Burgess	Guinta	Meehan
Bustos	Guthrie	Messer
Byrne	Gutiérrez	Mica
Calvert	Hahn	Miller (FL)
Capuano	Hanna	Miller (MI)
Carney	Hardy	Moolenaar
Carter (GA)	Harper	Mooney (WV)
Carter (TX)	Harris	Moulton
Cartwright	Hartzler	Mullin
Castor (FL)	Heck (NV)	Mulvaney
Chabot	Hensarling	Murphy (FL)
Chaffetz	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (PA)
Ciциlline	Hice, Jody B.	Neal
Clawson (FL)	Hill	Neugebauer
Clyburn	Himes	Newhouse
Coffman	Holding	Noem
Cohen	Hoyer	Nolan
Cole	Huelskamp	Nugent
Collins (GA)	Huffman	Nunes
Collins (NY)	Huizenga (MI)	O'Rourke
Comstock	Hultgren	Olson
Conaway	Hunter	Palazzo
Connolly	Hurd (TX)	Palmer
Cook	Hurt (VA)	Pascrell
Cooper	Issa	Paulsen
Costa	Jenkins (KS)	Pearce
Costello (PA)	Jenkins (WV)	Perlmutter
Courtney	Johnson (OH)	Perry
Cramer	Johnson, Sam	Peterson
Crawford	Jolly	Pittenger
Crenshaw	Jones	Pitts
Crowley	Jordan	Poe (TX)
Cuellar	Joyce	Poliquin
Culberson	Kaptur	Pompeo
Curbelo (FL)	Katko	Posey
Davis (CA)	Keating	Price, Tom
Davis, Rodney	Kelly (IL)	Quigley
Denham	Kelly (MS)	Ratcliffe
Dent	Kelly (PA)	Reed
DeSantis	Kennedy	Reichert
DesJarlais	Kind	Renacci
Dold	King (IA)	Ribble
Donovan	King (NY)	Rice (SC)
Doyle, Michael	Kinzinger (IL)	Richmond
F.	Kline	Rigell

Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (WI)
Salmon
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanford
Scalise
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Serrano

Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Stefanik
Stewart
Stivers
Stutzman
Swalwell (CA)
Takano
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiberi
Tipton
Torres
Trott
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Vela
Wagner
Walberg
Walden

Walker
Walorski
Walters, Mimi
Walz
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Williams
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Woodall
Yarmuth
Yoder
Yoho
Young (AK)
Young (IA)
Young (IN)
Zeldin
Zinke

NAYS—103

Bass
Becerra
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Brown (FL)
Butterfield
Capps
Cárdenas
Carson (IN)
Castro (TX)
Chu, Judy
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Conyers
Cummings
Davis, Danny
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Edwards
Ellison
Engel
Farr
Foster
Frankel (FL)
Fudge

Gallego
Garamendi
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Hastings
Heck (WA)
Higgins
Hinojosa
Honda
Israel
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kildee
Kilmer
Kirkpatrick
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Lewis
Lipinski
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Lowey
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Matsui
McDermott
McGovern

McNerney
Meng
Moore
Nadler
Napolitano
Norcross
Pallone
Pelosi
Peters
Pingree
Pocan
Polis
Price (NC)
Rangel
Rice (NY)
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Scott (VA)
Sherman
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Speier
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tonko
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Waters, Maxine

NOT VOTING—6

Diaz-Balart
Hudson

Meeks
Payne

Takai
Visclosky

□ 1524

Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. LOEBSACK changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. ROSKAM, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Messrs. LYNCH, NOLAN, Ms. ESTY, Messrs. FATTAH, LOWENTHAL, Ms. HAHN, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mses. WILSON of Florida, WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, ADAMS, SEWELL of Alabama, and Mrs. BLACK changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 392, noes 37, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 578]

AYES—392

Abraham
Adams
Aderholt
Aguiar
Allen
Amodei
Ashford
Babin
Barietta
Barr
Barton
Bass
Beatty
Becerra
Benishak
Bera
Beyer
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (MI)
Bishop (UT)
Black
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Bonamici
Bost
Boustany
Boyle, Brendan F.
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brooks (IN)
Brown (FL)
Brownley (CA)
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Bustos
Butterfield
Byrne
Calvert
Capps
Capuano
Cárdenas
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chabot
Chaffetz
Chu, Judy
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coffman
Cohen
Cole
Collins (GA)
Collins (NY)
Comstock
Conaway
Connolly
Conyers
Cook
Cooper
Costa
Costello (PA)
Courtney
Cramer
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson

Cummings
Curbelo (FL)
Davis (CA)
Davis, Danny
Davis, Rodney
DeFazio
DeGette
Delaney
DeLauro
DelBene
Denham
Dent
DeSantis
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Dold
Donovan
Doyle, Michael F.
Duckworth
Duffy
Duncan (SC)
Duncan (TN)
Edwards
Ellison
Ellmers (NC)
Emmer (MN)
Engel
Eshoo
Esty
Farenthold
Farr
Fattah
Fincher
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flores
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Foxy
Frankel (FL)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gabbard
Gallo
Garamendi
Garrett
Gibbs
Gibson
Goodlatte
Gowdy
Graham
Granger
Graves (GA)
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Grothman
Guinta
Guthrie
Gutiérrez
Hahn
Hanna
Hardy
Harper
Hartzler
Heck (NV)
Heck (WA)
Hensarling
Herrera Beutler
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinojosa

Holding
Honda
Hoyer
Huffman
Huizenga (MI)
Hultgren
Hunter
Hurd (TX)
Hurt (VA)
Israel
Issa
Jackson Lee
Jeffries
Jenkins (KS)
Jenkins (WV)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jolly
Joyce
Kaptur
Katko
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilmer
Kind
King (NY)
Kinzinger (IL)
Kirkpatrick
Kline
Knight
Kuster
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
Lawrence
Levin
Lewis
Lieu, Ted
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren
Long
Loudermilk
Love
Lowenthal
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lujan Grisham (NM)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)
Lummis
Lynch
MacArthur
Maloney,
Carolyn
Maloney, Sean
Marchant
Marino
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul
McClintock
McCollum
McGovern
McHenry
McKinley

McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
McSally
Meadows
Meehan
Meng
Messer
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Moolenaar
Moore
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (FL)
Murphy (PA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neugebauer
Newhouse
Noem
Nolan
Norcross
Nugent
Nunes
O'Rourke
Olson
Palazzo
Pallone
Palmer
Pascarella
Paulsen
Pearce
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peterson
Pingree
Pittenger
Pitts
Pocan
Poe (TX)
Poliquin
Polis
Pompeo
Posey
Price (NC)
Price, Tom
Quigley
Rangel
Ratcliffe
Reed
Reichert

Renacci
Rice (NY)
Rice (SC)
Richmond
Rigell
Roby
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rohrabacher
Rokita
Rooney (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothfus
Rouzer
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Russell
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrader
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Sewell (AL)
Sherman
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Sinema
Sires
Slaughter
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Speier

NOES—37

Amash
Blum
Harris
Brat
Bridenstine
Brooks (AL)
Buck
Clawson (FL)
DesJarlais
Doggett
Fleming
Fudge
Gohmert
Gosar

Griffith
Hastings
Hice, Jody B.
Huelskamp
Jones
Jordan
King (IA)
Labrador
Lee
Massie
McDermott
Mooney (WV)

NOT VOTING—5

Hudson
Meeks

Payne
Takai

Visclosky

□ 1533

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY COMMITTEE ON RULES REGARDING AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR THE DRIVE ACT

(Mr. SESSIONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday evening, the Rules Committee circulated a Dear Colleague outlining the amendment process for the Senate amendments to H.R. 22, the DRIVE

Act. This will be the vehicle for consideration of H.R. 3763, the Surface Transportation Reauthorization and Reform Act. An amendment deadline has been set for Friday, October 30, at 2 p.m.

This is an unusual amendment process; so, I ask all Members to please read the Dear Colleague, which can be found on the Rules Committee Web site, very carefully and refer any questions to the Rules Committee staff or myself, as the chairman.

I would also like to point out that, in consultation with the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, several changes were made to the bill, as ordered reported. A summary of those changes can also be found on the Rules Committee Web site. Please feel free to contact me or any of our staff members if we can be of assistance.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Sherman Williams, one of his secretaries.

ENSURING TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS THE RIGHT TO APPEAL ACT

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 495 and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the bill (H.R. 1314) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for a right to an administrative appeal relating to adverse determinations of tax-exempt status of certain organizations, with the Senate amendment thereto, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. ROSELEHTINEN). The Clerk will designate the Senate amendment.

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Trade Act of 2015”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Sec. 101. Short title.

Sec. 102. Trade negotiating objectives.

Sec. 103. Trade agreements authority.

Sec. 104. Congressional oversight, consultations, and access to information.

Sec. 105. Notice, consultations, and reports.

Sec. 106. Implementation of trade agreements.

Sec. 107. Treatment of certain trade agreements for which negotiations have already begun.

Sec. 108. Sovereignty.

Sec. 109. Interests of small businesses.

Sec. 110. Conforming amendments; application of certain provisions.

Sec. 111. Definitions.

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. Short title.

Sec. 202. Application of provisions relating to trade adjustment assistance.

Sec. 203. Extension of trade adjustment assistance program.

Sec. 204. Performance measurement and reporting.

Sec. 205. Applicability of trade adjustment assistance provisions.

Sec. 206. Sunset provisions.

Sec. 207. Extension and modification of Health Coverage Tax Credit.

Sec. 208. Customs user fees.

Sec. 209. Child tax credit not refundable for taxpayers electing to exclude foreign earned income from tax.

Sec. 210. Time for payment of corporate estimated taxes.

Sec. 211. Coverage and payment for renal dialysis services for individuals with acute kidney injury.

Sec. 212. Modification of the Medicare sequester for fiscal year 2024.

TITLE I—TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

SEC. 102. TRADE NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.

(a) **OVERALL TRADE NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.**—The overall trade negotiating objectives of the United States for agreements subject to the provisions of section 103 are—

(1) to obtain more open, equitable, and reciprocal market access;

(2) to obtain the reduction or elimination of barriers and distortions that are directly related to trade and investment and that decrease market opportunities for United States exports or otherwise distort United States trade;

(3) to further strengthen the system of international trade and investment disciplines and procedures, including dispute settlement;

(4) to foster economic growth, raise living standards, enhance the competitiveness of the United States, promote full employment in the United States, and enhance the global economy;

(5) to ensure that trade and environmental policies are mutually supportive and to seek to protect and preserve the environment and enhance the international means of doing so, while optimizing the use of the world’s resources;

(6) to promote respect for worker rights and the rights of children consistent with core labor standards of the ILO (as set out in section 111(7)) and an understanding of the relationship between trade and worker rights;

(7) to seek provisions in trade agreements under which parties to those agreements ensure that they do not weaken or reduce the protections afforded in domestic environmental and labor laws as an encouragement for trade;

(8) to ensure that trade agreements afford small businesses equal access to international markets, equitable trade benefits, and expanded export market opportunities, and provide for the reduction or elimination of trade and investment barriers that disproportionately impact small businesses;

(9) to promote universal ratification and full compliance with ILO Convention No. 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor;

(10) to ensure that trade agreements reflect and facilitate the increasingly interrelated, multi-sectoral nature of trade and investment activity;

(11) to recognize the growing significance of the Internet as a trading platform in international commerce;

(12) to take into account other legitimate United States domestic objectives, including, but not limited to, the protection of legitimate health or safety, essential security, and consumer interests and the law and regulations related thereto; and

(13) to take into account conditions relating to religious freedom of any party to negotiations for a trade agreement with the United States.

(b) **PRINCIPAL TRADE NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES.**—

(1) **TRADE IN GOODS.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding trade in goods are—

(A) to expand competitive market opportunities for exports of goods from the United States and to obtain fairer and more open conditions of trade, including through the utilization of global value chains, by reducing or eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers and policies and practices of foreign governments directly related to trade that decrease market opportunities for United States exports or otherwise distort United States trade; and

(B) to obtain reciprocal tariff and nontariff barrier elimination agreements, including with respect to those tariff categories covered in section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3521(b)).

(2) **TRADE IN SERVICES.**—(A) The principal negotiating objective of the United States regarding trade in services is to expand competitive market opportunities for United States services and to obtain fairer and more open conditions of trade, including through utilization of global value chains, by reducing or eliminating barriers to international trade in services, such as regulatory and other barriers that deny national treatment and market access or unreasonably restrict the establishment or operations of service suppliers.

(B) Recognizing that expansion of trade in services generates benefits for all sectors of the economy and facilitates trade, the objective described in subparagraph (A) should be pursued through all means, including through a plurilateral agreement with those countries willing and able to undertake high standard services commitments for both existing and new services.

(3) **TRADE IN AGRICULTURE.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to agriculture is to obtain competitive opportunities for United States exports of agricultural commodities in foreign markets substantially equivalent to the competitive opportunities afforded foreign exports in United States markets and to achieve fairer and more open conditions of trade in bulk, specialty crop, and value added commodities by—

(A) securing more open and equitable market access through robust rules on sanitary and phytosanitary measures that—

(i) encourage the adoption of international standards and require a science-based justification be provided for a sanitary or phytosanitary measure if the measure is more restrictive than the applicable international standard;

(ii) improve regulatory coherence, promote the use of systems-based approaches, and appropriately recognize the equivalence of health and safety protection systems of exporting countries;

(iii) require that measures are transparently developed and implemented, are based on risk assessments that take into account relevant international guidelines and scientific data, and are not more restrictive on trade than necessary to meet the intended purpose; and

(iv) improve import check processes, including testing methodologies and procedures, and certification requirements,

while recognizing that countries may put in place measures to protect human, animal, or plant life or health in a manner consistent with their international obligations, including the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (referred to in section 101(d)(3) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(3)));

(B) reducing or eliminating, by a date certain, tariffs or other charges that decrease market opportunities for United States exports—

(i) giving priority to those products that are subject to significantly higher tariffs or subsidy regimes of major producing countries; and

(ii) providing reasonable adjustment periods for United States import sensitive products, in close consultation with Congress on such products before initiating tariff reduction negotiations;

(C) reducing tariffs to levels that are the same as or lower than those in the United States;

(D) reducing or eliminating subsidies that decrease market opportunities for United States exports or unfairly distort agriculture markets to the detriment of the United States;

(E) allowing the preservation of programs that support family farms and rural communities but do not distort trade;

(F) developing disciplines for domestic support programs, so that production that is in excess of domestic food security needs is sold at world prices;

(G) eliminating government policies that create price depressing surpluses;

(H) eliminating state trading enterprises whenever possible;

(I) developing, strengthening, and clarifying rules to eliminate practices that unfairly decrease United States market access opportunities or distort agricultural markets to the detriment of the United States, and ensuring that such rules are subject to efficient, timely, and effective dispute settlement, including—

(i) unfair or trade distorting activities of state trading enterprises and other administrative mechanisms, with emphasis on requiring price transparency in the operation of state trading enterprises and such other mechanisms in order to end cross subsidization, price discrimination, and price undercutting;

(ii) unjustified trade restrictions or commercial requirements, such as labeling, that affect new technologies, including biotechnology;

(iii) unjustified sanitary or phytosanitary restrictions, including restrictions not based on scientific principles in contravention of obligations in the Uruguay Round Agreements or bilateral or regional trade agreements;

(iv) other unjustified technical barriers to trade; and

(v) restrictive rules in the administration of tariff rate quotas;

(J) eliminating practices that adversely affect trade in perishable or cyclical products, while improving import relief mechanisms to recognize the unique characteristics of perishable and cyclical agriculture;

(K) ensuring that import relief mechanisms for perishable and cyclical agriculture are as accessible and timely to growers in the United States as those mechanisms that are used by other countries;

(L) taking into account whether a party to the negotiations has failed to adhere to the provisions of already existing trade agreements with the United States or has circumvented obligations under those agreements;

(M) taking into account whether a product is subject to market distortions by reason of a failure of a major producing country to adhere to the provisions of already existing trade agreements with the United States or by the circumvention by that country of its obligations under those agreements;

(N) otherwise ensuring that countries that accede to the World Trade Organization have made meaningful market liberalization commitments in agriculture;

(O) taking into account the impact that agreements covering agriculture to which the United States is a party have on the United States agricultural industry;

(P) maintaining bona fide food assistance programs, market development programs, and export credit programs;

(Q) seeking to secure the broadest market access possible in multilateral, regional, and bilateral negotiations, recognizing the effect that simultaneous sets of negotiations may have on United States import sensitive commodities (including those subject to tariff rate quotas);

(R) seeking to develop an international consensus on the treatment of seasonal or perishable agricultural products in investigations relating to dumping and safeguards and in any other relevant area;

(S) seeking to establish the common base year for calculating the Aggregated Measurement of

Support (as defined in the Agreement on Agriculture) as the end of each country's Uruguay Round implementation period, as reported in each country's Uruguay Round market access schedule;

(T) ensuring transparency in the administration of tariff rate quotas through multilateral, plurilateral, and bilateral negotiations; and

(U) eliminating and preventing the undermining of market access for United States products through improper use of a country's system for protecting or recognizing geographical indications, including failing to ensure transparency and procedural fairness and protecting generic terms.

(4) FOREIGN INVESTMENT.—Recognizing that United States law on the whole provides a high level of protection for investment, consistent with or greater than the level required by international law, the principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding foreign investment are to reduce or eliminate artificial or trade distorting barriers to foreign investment, while ensuring that foreign investors in the United States are not accorded greater substantive rights with respect to investment protections than United States investors in the United States, and to secure for investors important rights comparable to those that would be available under United States legal principles and practice, by—

(A) reducing or eliminating exceptions to the principle of national treatment;

(B) freeing the transfer of funds relating to investments;

(C) reducing or eliminating performance requirements, forced technology transfers, and other unreasonable barriers to the establishment and operation of investments;

(D) seeking to establish standards for expropriation and compensation for expropriation, consistent with United States legal principles and practice;

(E) seeking to establish standards for fair and equitable treatment, consistent with United States legal principles and practice, including the principle of due process;

(F) providing meaningful procedures for resolving investment disputes;

(G) seeking to improve mechanisms used to resolve disputes between an investor and a government through—

(i) mechanisms to eliminate frivolous claims and to deter the filing of frivolous claims;

(ii) procedures to ensure the efficient selection of arbitrators and the expeditious disposition of claims;

(iii) procedures to enhance opportunities for public input into the formulation of government positions; and

(iv) providing for an appellate body or similar mechanism to provide coherence to the interpretations of investment provisions in trade agreements; and

(H) ensuring the fullest measure of transparency in the dispute settlement mechanism, to the extent consistent with the need to protect information that is classified or business confidential, by—

(i) ensuring that all requests for dispute settlement are promptly made public;

(ii) ensuring that—

(I) all proceedings, submissions, findings, and decisions are promptly made public; and

(II) all hearings are open to the public; and

(iii) establishing a mechanism for acceptance of amicus curiae submissions from businesses, unions, and nongovernmental organizations.

(5) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding trade-related intellectual property are—

(A) to further promote adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights, including through—

(i) ensuring accelerated and full implementation of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights referred to in section 101(d)(15) of the Uruguay Round

Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(15)), particularly with respect to meeting enforcement obligations under that agreement; and

(II) ensuring that the provisions of any trade agreement governing intellectual property rights that is entered into by the United States reflect a standard of protection similar to that found in United States law;

(ii) providing strong protection for new and emerging technologies and new methods of transmitting and distributing products embodying intellectual property, including in a manner that facilitates legitimate digital trade;

(iii) preventing or eliminating discrimination with respect to matters affecting the availability, acquisition, scope, maintenance, use, and enforcement of intellectual property rights;

(iv) ensuring that standards of protection and enforcement keep pace with technological developments, and in particular ensuring that rightholders have the legal and technological means to control the use of their works through the Internet and other global communication media, and to prevent the unauthorized use of their works;

(v) providing strong enforcement of intellectual property rights, including through accessible, expeditious, and effective civil, administrative, and criminal enforcement mechanisms; and

(vi) preventing or eliminating government involvement in the violation of intellectual property rights, including cyber theft and piracy;

(B) to secure fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory market access opportunities for United States persons that rely upon intellectual property protection; and

(C) to respect the Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, adopted by the World Trade Organization at the Fourth Ministerial Conference at Doha, Qatar on November 14, 2001, and to ensure that trade agreements foster innovation and promote access to medicines.

(6) DIGITAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES AND CROSS-BORDER DATA FLOWS.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to digital trade in goods and services, as well as cross-border data flows, are—

(A) to ensure that current obligations, rules, disciplines, and commitments under the World Trade Organization and bilateral and regional trade agreements apply to digital trade in goods and services and to cross-border data flows;

(B) to ensure that—

(i) electronically delivered goods and services receive no less favorable treatment under trade rules and commitments than like products delivered in physical form; and

(ii) the classification of such goods and services ensures the most liberal trade treatment possible, fully encompassing both existing and new trade;

(C) to ensure that governments refrain from implementing trade-related measures that impede digital trade in goods and services, restrict cross-border data flows, or require local storage or processing of data;

(D) with respect to subparagraphs (A) through (C), where legitimate policy objectives require domestic regulations that affect digital trade in goods and services or cross-border data flows, to obtain commitments that any such regulations are the least restrictive on trade, non-discriminatory, and transparent, and promote an open market environment; and

(E) to extend the moratorium of the World Trade Organization on duties on electronic transmissions.

(7) REGULATORY PRACTICES.—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding the use of government regulation or other practices to reduce market access for United States goods, services, and investments are—

(A) to achieve increased transparency and opportunity for the participation of affected parties in the development of regulations;

(B) to require that proposed regulations be based on sound science, cost benefit analysis, risk assessment, or other objective evidence;

(C) to establish consultative mechanisms and seek other commitments, as appropriate, to improve regulatory practices and promote increased regulatory coherence, including through—

(i) transparency in developing guidelines, rules, regulations, and laws for government procurement and other regulatory regimes;

(ii) the elimination of redundancies in testing and certification;

(iii) early consultations on significant regulations;

(iv) the use of impact assessments;

(v) the periodic review of existing regulatory measures; and

(vi) the application of good regulatory practices;

(D) to seek greater openness, transparency, and convergence of standards development processes, and enhance cooperation on standards issues globally;

(E) to promote regulatory compatibility through harmonization, equivalence, or mutual recognition of different regulations and standards and to encourage the use of international and interoperable standards, as appropriate;

(F) to achieve the elimination of government measures such as price controls and reference pricing which deny full market access for United States products;

(G) to ensure that government regulatory reimbursement regimes are transparent, provide procedural fairness, are nondiscriminatory, and provide full market access for United States products; and

(H) to ensure that foreign governments—

(i) demonstrate that the collection of undisclosed proprietary information is limited to that necessary to satisfy a legitimate and justifiable regulatory interest; and

(ii) protect such information against disclosure, except in exceptional circumstances to protect the public, or where such information is effectively protected against unfair competition.

(8) **STATE-OWNED AND STATE-CONTROLLED ENTERPRISES.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States regarding competition by state-owned and state-controlled enterprises is to seek commitments that—

(A) eliminate or prevent trade distortions and unfair competition favoring state-owned and state-controlled enterprises to the extent of their engagement in commercial activity, and

(B) ensure that such engagement is based solely on commercial considerations,

in particular through disciplines that eliminate or prevent discrimination and market-distorting subsidies and that promote transparency.

(9) **LOCALIZATION BARRIERS TO TRADE.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to localization barriers is to eliminate and prevent measures that require United States producers and service providers to locate facilities, intellectual property, or other assets in a country as a market access or investment condition, including indigenous innovation measures.

(10) **LABOR AND THE ENVIRONMENT.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to labor and the environment are—

(A) to ensure that a party to a trade agreement with the United States—

(i) adopts and maintains measures implementing internationally recognized core labor standards (as defined in section 111(17)) and its obligations under common multilateral environmental agreements (as defined in section 111(6)),

(ii) does not waive or otherwise derogate from, or offer to waive or otherwise derogate from—

(I) its statutes or regulations implementing internationally recognized core labor standards (as defined in section 111(17)), in a manner affecting trade or investment between the United States and that party, where the waiver or deroga-

tion would be inconsistent with one or more such standards, or

(II) its environmental laws in a manner that weakens or reduces the protections afforded in those laws and in a manner affecting trade or investment between the United States and that party, except as provided in its law and provided not inconsistent with its obligations under common multilateral environmental agreements (as defined in section 111(6)) or other provisions of the trade agreement specifically agreed upon, and

(iii) does not fail to effectively enforce its environmental or labor laws, through a sustained or recurring course of action or inaction,

in a manner affecting trade or investment between the United States and that party after entry into force of a trade agreement between those countries;

(B) to recognize that—

(i) with respect to environment, parties to a trade agreement retain the right to exercise prosecutorial discretion and to make decisions regarding the allocation of enforcement resources with respect to other environmental laws determined to have higher priorities, and a party is effectively enforcing its laws if a course of action or inaction reflects a reasonable, bona fide exercise of such discretion, or results from a reasonable, bona fide decision regarding the allocation of resources; and

(ii) with respect to labor, decisions regarding the distribution of enforcement resources are not a reason for not complying with a party's labor obligations; a party to a trade agreement retains the right to reasonable exercise of discretion and to make bona fide decisions regarding the allocation of resources between labor enforcement activities among core labor standards, provided the exercise of such discretion and such decisions are not inconsistent with its obligations;

(C) to strengthen the capacity of United States trading partners to promote respect for core labor standards (as defined in section 111(7));

(D) to strengthen the capacity of United States trading partners to protect the environment through the promotion of sustainable development;

(E) to reduce or eliminate government practices or policies that unduly threaten sustainable development;

(F) to seek market access, through the elimination of tariffs and nontariff barriers, for United States environmental technologies, goods, and services;

(G) to ensure that labor, environmental, health, or safety policies and practices of the parties to trade agreements with the United States do not arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate against United States exports or serve as disguised barriers to trade;

(H) to ensure that enforceable labor and environment obligations are subject to the same dispute settlement and remedies as other enforceable obligations under the agreement; and

(I) to ensure that a trade agreement is not construed to empower a party's authorities to undertake labor or environmental law enforcement activities in the territory of the United States.

(11) **CURRENCY.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to currency practices is that parties to a trade agreement with the United States avoid manipulating exchange rates in order to prevent effective balance of payments adjustment or to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other parties to the agreement, such as through cooperative mechanisms, enforceable rules, reporting, monitoring, transparency, or other means, as appropriate.

(12) **FOREIGN CURRENCY MANIPULATION.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to unfair currency practices is to seek to establish accountability through enforceable rules, transparency, reporting, moni-

toring, cooperative mechanisms, or other means to address exchange rate manipulation involving protracted large scale intervention in one direction in the exchange markets and a persistently undervalued foreign exchange rate to gain an unfair competitive advantage in trade over other parties to a trade agreement, consistent with existing obligations of the United States as a member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization.

(13) **WTO AND MULTILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS.**—Recognizing that the World Trade Organization is the foundation of the global trading system, the principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding the World Trade Organization, the Uruguay Round Agreements, and other multilateral and plurilateral trade agreements are—

(A) to achieve full implementation and extend the coverage of the World Trade Organization and multilateral and plurilateral agreements to products, sectors, and conditions of trade not adequately covered;

(B) to expand country participation in and enhancement of the Information Technology Agreement, the Government Procurement Agreement, and other plurilateral trade agreements of the World Trade Organization;

(C) to expand competitive market opportunities for United States exports and to obtain fairer and more open conditions of trade, including through utilization of global value chains, through the negotiation of new WTO multilateral and plurilateral trade agreements, such as an agreement on trade facilitation;

(D) to ensure that regional trade agreements to which the United States is not a party fully achieve the high standards of, and comply with, WTO disciplines, including Article XXIV of GATT 1994, Article V and V bis of the General Agreement on Trade in Services, and the Enabling Clause, including through meaningful WTO review of such regional trade agreements;

(E) to enhance compliance by WTO members with their obligations as WTO members through active participation in the bodies of the World Trade Organization by the United States and all other WTO members, including in the trade policy review mechanism and the committee system of the World Trade Organization, and by working to increase the effectiveness of such bodies; and

(F) to encourage greater cooperation between the World Trade Organization and other international organizations.

(14) **TRADE INSTITUTION TRANSPARENCY.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States with respect to transparency is to obtain wider and broader application of the principle of transparency in the World Trade Organization, entities established under bilateral and regional trade agreements, and other international trade fora through seeking—

(A) timely public access to information regarding trade issues and the activities of such institutions;

(B) openness by ensuring public access to appropriate meetings, proceedings, and submissions, including with regard to trade and investment dispute settlement; and

(C) public access to all notifications and supporting documentation submitted by WTO members.

(15) **ANTI-CORRUPTION.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the use of money or other things of value to influence acts, decisions, or omissions of foreign governments or officials or to secure any improper advantage in a manner affecting trade are—

(A) to obtain high standards and effective domestic enforcement mechanisms applicable to persons from all countries participating in the applicable trade agreement that prohibit such attempts to influence acts, decisions, or omissions of foreign governments or officials or to secure any such improper advantage;

(B) to ensure that such standards level the playing field for United States persons in international trade and investment; and

(C) to seek commitments to work jointly to encourage and support anti-corruption and anti-bribery initiatives in international trade fora, including through the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, done at Paris December 17, 1997 (commonly known as the "OECD Anti-Bribery Convention").

(16) **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to dispute settlement and enforcement of trade agreements are—

(A) to seek provisions in trade agreements providing for resolution of disputes between governments under those trade agreements in an effective, timely, transparent, equitable, and reasoned manner, requiring determinations based on facts and the principles of the agreements, with the goal of increasing compliance with the agreements;

(B) to seek to strengthen the capacity of the Trade Policy Review Mechanism of the World Trade Organization to review compliance with commitments;

(C) to seek adherence by panels convened under the Dispute Settlement Understanding and by the Appellate Body to—

(i) the mandate of those panels and the Appellate Body to apply the WTO Agreement as written, without adding to or diminishing rights and obligations under the Agreement; and

(ii) the standard of review applicable under the Uruguay Round Agreement involved in the dispute, including greater deference, where appropriate, to the fact finding and technical expertise of national investigating authorities;

(D) to seek provisions encouraging the early identification and settlement of disputes through consultation;

(E) to seek provisions to encourage the provision of trade-expanding compensation if a party to a dispute under the agreement does not come into compliance with its obligations under the agreement;

(F) to seek provisions to impose a penalty upon a party to a dispute under the agreement that—

(i) encourages compliance with the obligations of the agreement;

(ii) is appropriate to the parties, nature, subject matter, and scope of the violation; and

(iii) has the aim of not adversely affecting parties or interests not party to the dispute while maintaining the effectiveness of the enforcement mechanism; and

(G) to seek provisions that treat United States principal negotiating objectives equally with respect to—

(i) the ability to resort to dispute settlement under the applicable agreement;

(ii) the availability of equivalent dispute settlement procedures; and

(iii) the availability of equivalent remedies.

(17) **TRADE REMEDY LAWS.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to trade remedy laws are—

(A) to preserve the ability of the United States to enforce rigorously its trade laws, including the antidumping, countervailing duty, and safeguard laws, and avoid agreements that lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international disciplines on unfair trade, especially dumping and subsidies, or that lessen the effectiveness of domestic and international safeguard provisions, in order to ensure that United States workers, agricultural producers, and firms can compete fully on fair terms and enjoy the benefits of reciprocal trade concessions; and

(B) to address and remedy market distortions that lead to dumping and subsidization, including overcapacity, cartelization, and market access barriers.

(18) **BORDER TAXES.**—The principal negotiating objective of the United States regarding

border taxes is to obtain a revision of the rules of the World Trade Organization with respect to the treatment of border adjustments for internal taxes to redress the disadvantage to countries relying primarily on direct taxes for revenue rather than indirect taxes.

(19) **TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to trade in textiles and apparel articles are to obtain competitive opportunities for United States exports of textiles and apparel in foreign markets substantially equivalent to the competitive opportunities afforded foreign exports in United States markets and to achieve fairer and more open conditions of trade in textiles and apparel.

(20) **COMMERCIAL PARTNERSHIPS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to an agreement that is proposed to be entered into with the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership countries and to which section 103(b) will apply, the principal negotiating objectives of the United States regarding commercial partnerships are the following:

(i) To discourage actions by potential trading partners that directly or indirectly prejudice or otherwise discourage commercial activity solely between the United States and Israel.

(ii) To discourage politically motivated actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel and to seek the elimination of politically motivated nontariff barriers on Israeli goods, services, or other commerce imposed on the State of Israel.

(iii) To seek the elimination of state-sponsored unsanctioned foreign boycotts against Israel or compliance with the Arab League Boycott of Israel by prospective trading partners.

(B) **DEFINITION.**—In this paragraph, the term "actions to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel" means actions by states, non-member states of the United Nations, international organizations, or affiliated agencies of international organizations that are politically motivated and are intended to penalize or otherwise limit commercial relations specifically with Israel or persons doing business in Israel or in Israeli-controlled territories.

(21) **GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF LEGAL REGIMES, AND THE RULE OF LAW OF TRADING PARTNERS.**—The principal negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to ensuring implementation of trade commitments and obligations by strengthening good governance, transparency, the effective operation of legal regimes and the rule of law of trading partners of the United States is through capacity building and other appropriate means, which are important parts of the broader effort to create more open democratic societies and to promote respect for internationally recognized human rights.

(C) **CAPACITY BUILDING AND OTHER PRIORITIES.**—In order to address and maintain United States competitiveness in the global economy, the President shall—

(1) direct the heads of relevant Federal agencies—

(A) to work to strengthen the capacity of United States trading partners to carry out obligations under trade agreements by consulting with any country seeking a trade agreement with the United States concerning that country's laws relating to customs and trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, intellectual property rights, labor, and the environment; and

(B) to provide technical assistance to that country if needed;

(2) seek to establish consultative mechanisms among parties to trade agreements to strengthen the capacity of United States trading partners to develop and implement standards for the protection of the environment and human health based on sound science;

(3) promote consideration of multilateral environmental agreements and consult with parties to such agreements regarding the consistency of any such agreement that includes trade meas-

ures with existing environmental exceptions under Article XX of GATT 1994; and

(4) submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate an annual report on capacity-building activities undertaken in connection with trade agreements negotiated or being negotiated pursuant to this title.

SEC. 103. TRADE AGREEMENTS AUTHORITY.

(a) **AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF BARRIERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Whenever the President determines that one or more existing duties or other import restrictions of any foreign country or the United States are unduly burdening and restricting the foreign trade of the United States and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title will be promoted thereby, the President—

(A) may enter into trade agreements with foreign countries before—

(i) July 1, 2018; or

(ii) July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under subsection (c); and

(B) may, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), proclaim—

(i) such modification or continuance of any existing duty,

(ii) such continuance of existing duty free or excise treatment, or

(iii) such additional duties,

as the President determines to be required or appropriate to carry out any such trade agreement.

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after July 1, 2018, or July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under subsection (c), shall not be eligible for approval under this title.

(2) **NOTIFICATION.**—The President shall notify Congress of the President's intention to enter into an agreement under this subsection.

(3) **LIMITATIONS.**—No proclamation may be made under paragraph (1) that—

(A) reduces any rate of duty (other than a rate of duty that does not exceed 5 percent ad valorem on the date of the enactment of this Act) to a rate of duty which is less than 50 percent of the rate of such duty that applies on such date of enactment;

(B) reduces the rate of duty below that applicable under the Uruguay Round Agreements or a successor agreement, on any import sensitive agricultural product; or

(C) increases any rate of duty above the rate that applied on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) **AGGREGATE REDUCTION; EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.**—

(A) **AGGREGATE REDUCTION.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the aggregate reduction in the rate of duty on any article which is in effect on any day pursuant to a trade agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not exceed the aggregate reduction which would have been in effect on such day if—

(i) a reduction of 3 percent ad valorem or a reduction of $\frac{1}{10}$ of the total reduction, whichever is greater, had taken effect on the effective date of the first reduction proclaimed under paragraph (1) to carry out such agreement with respect to such article; and

(ii) a reduction equal to the amount applicable under clause (i) had taken effect at 1-year intervals after the effective date of such first reduction.

(B) **EXEMPTION FROM STAGING.**—No staging is required under subparagraph (A) with respect to a duty reduction that is proclaimed under paragraph (1) for an article of a kind that is not produced in the United States. The United States International Trade Commission shall advise the President of the identity of articles that may be exempted from staging under this subparagraph.

(5) **ROUNDING.**—If the President determines that such action will simplify the computation

of reductions under paragraph (4), the President may round an annual reduction by an amount equal to the lesser of—

(A) the difference between the reduction without regard to this paragraph and the next lower whole number; or

(B) ½ of 1 percent ad valorem.

(6) **OTHER LIMITATIONS.**—A rate of duty reduction that may not be proclaimed by reason of paragraph (3) may take effect only if a provision authorizing such reduction is included within an implementing bill provided for under section 106 and that bill is enacted into law.

(7) **OTHER TARIFF MODIFICATIONS.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (1)(B), (3)(A), (3)(C), and (4) through (6), and subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 115 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3524), the President may proclaim the modification of any duty or staged rate reduction of any duty set forth in Schedule XX, as defined in section 2(5) of that Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(5)), if the United States agrees to such modification or staged rate reduction in a negotiation for the reciprocal elimination or harmonization of duties under the auspices of the World Trade Organization.

(8) **AUTHORITY UNDER URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS ACT NOT AFFECTED.**—Nothing in this subsection shall limit the authority provided to the President under section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3521(b)).

(b) **AGREEMENTS REGARDING TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—(A) Whenever the President determines that—

(i) 1 or more existing duties or any other import restriction of any foreign country or the United States or any other barrier to, or other distortion of, international trade unduly burdens or restricts the foreign trade of the United States or adversely affects the United States economy; or

(ii) the imposition of any such barrier or distortion is likely to result in such a burden, restriction, or effect,

and that the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title will be promoted thereby, the President may enter into a trade agreement described in subparagraph (B) during the period described in subparagraph (C).

(B) The President may enter into a trade agreement under subparagraph (A) with foreign countries providing for—

(i) the reduction or elimination of a duty, restriction, barrier, or other distortion described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) the prohibition of, or limitation on the imposition of, such barrier or other distortion.

(C) The President may enter into a trade agreement under this paragraph before—

(i) July 1, 2018; or

(ii) July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under subsection (c).

Substantial modifications to, or substantial additional provisions of, a trade agreement entered into after July 1, 2018, or July 1, 2021, if trade authorities procedures are extended under subsection (c), shall not be eligible for approval under this title.

(2) **CONDITIONS.**—A trade agreement may be entered into under this subsection only if such agreement makes progress in meeting the applicable objectives described in subsections (a) and (b) of section 102 and the President satisfies the conditions set forth in sections 104 and 105.

(3) **BILLS QUALIFYING FOR TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.**—(A) The provisions of section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 (in this title referred to as “trade authorities procedures”) apply to a bill of either House of Congress which contains provisions described in subparagraph (B) to the same extent as such section 151 applies to implementing bills under that section. A bill to which this paragraph applies shall hereafter in this title be referred to as an “implementing bill”.

(B) The provisions referred to in subparagraph (A) are—

(i) a provision approving a trade agreement entered into under this subsection and approving the statement of administrative action, if any, proposed to implement such trade agreement; and

(ii) if changes in existing laws or new statutory authority are required to implement such trade agreement or agreements, only such provisions as are strictly necessary or appropriate to implement such trade agreement or agreements, either repealing or amending existing laws or providing new statutory authority.

(c) **EXTENSION DISAPPROVAL PROCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in section 106(b)—

(A) the trade authorities procedures apply to implementing bills submitted with respect to trade agreements entered into under subsection (b) before July 1, 2018; and

(B) the trade authorities procedures shall be extended to implementing bills submitted with respect to trade agreements entered into under subsection (b) after June 30, 2018, and before July 1, 2021, if (and only if)—

(i) the President requests such extension under paragraph (2); and

(ii) neither House of Congress adopts an extension disapproval resolution under paragraph (5) before July 1, 2018.

(2) **REPORT TO CONGRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.**—If the President is of the opinion that the trade authorities procedures should be extended to implementing bills described in paragraph (1)(B), the President shall submit to Congress, not later than April 1, 2018, a written report that contains a request for such extension, together with—

(A) a description of all trade agreements that have been negotiated under subsection (b) and the anticipated schedule for submitting such agreements to Congress for approval;

(B) a description of the progress that has been made in negotiations to achieve the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title, and a statement that such progress justifies the continuation of negotiations; and

(C) a statement of the reasons why the extension is needed to complete the negotiations.

(3) **OTHER REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(A) **REPORT BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The President shall promptly inform the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations established under section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155) of the decision of the President to submit a report to Congress under paragraph (2). The Advisory Committee shall submit to Congress as soon as practicable, but not later than June 1, 2018, a written report that contains—

(i) its views regarding the progress that has been made in negotiations to achieve the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title; and

(ii) a statement of its views, and the reasons therefor, regarding whether the extension requested under paragraph (2) should be approved or disapproved.

(B) **REPORT BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—The President shall promptly inform the United States International Trade Commission of the decision of the President to submit a report to Congress under paragraph (2). The International Trade Commission shall submit to Congress as soon as practicable, but not later than June 1, 2018, a written report that contains a review and analysis of the economic impact on the United States of all trade agreements implemented between the date of the enactment of this Act and the date on which the President decides to seek an extension requested under paragraph (2).

(4) **STATUS OF REPORTS.**—The reports submitted to Congress under paragraphs (2) and (3), or any portion of such reports, may be classified to the extent the President determines appropriate.

(5) **EXTENSION DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTIONS.**—(A) For purposes of paragraph (1), the term “extension disapproval resolution” means a resolution of either House of Congress, the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the _____ disapproves the request of the President for the extension, under section 103(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, of the trade authorities procedures under that Act to any implementing bill submitted with respect to any trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) of that Act after June 30, 2018.”, with the blank space being filled with the name of the resolving House of Congress.

(B) Extension disapproval resolutions—

(i) may be introduced in either House of Congress by any member of such House; and

(ii) shall be referred, in the House of Representatives, to the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Rules.

(C) The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 152 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2192) (relating to the floor consideration of certain resolutions in the House and Senate) apply to extension disapproval resolutions.

(D) It is not in order for—

(i) the House of Representatives to consider any extension disapproval resolution not reported by the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, by the Committee on Rules;

(ii) the Senate to consider any extension disapproval resolution not reported by the Committee on Finance; or

(iii) either House of Congress to consider an extension disapproval resolution after June 30, 2018.

(d) **COMMENCEMENT OF NEGOTIATIONS.**—In order to contribute to the continued economic expansion of the United States, the President shall commence negotiations covering tariff and nontariff barriers affecting any industry, product, or service sector, and expand existing sectoral agreements to countries that are not parties to those agreements, in cases where the President determines that such negotiations are feasible and timely and would benefit the United States. Such sectors include agriculture, commercial services, intellectual property rights, industrial and capital goods, government procurement, information technology products, environmental technology and services, medical equipment and services, civil aircraft, and infrastructure products. In so doing, the President shall take into account all of the negotiating objectives set forth in section 102.

SEC. 104. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT, CONSULTATIONS, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION.

(a) **CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**—

(1) **CONSULTATIONS DURING NEGOTIATIONS.**—In the course of negotiations conducted under this title, the United States Trade Representative shall—

(A) meet upon request with any Member of Congress regarding negotiating objectives, the status of negotiations in progress, and the nature of any changes in the laws of the United States or the administration of those laws that may be recommended to Congress to carry out any trade agreement or any requirement of, amendment to, or recommendation under, that agreement;

(B) upon request of any Member of Congress, provide access to pertinent documents relating to the negotiations, including classified materials;

(C) consult closely and on a timely basis with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(D) consult closely and on a timely basis with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the House Advisory Group on Negotiations and the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations convened under subsection (c) and all committees of

the House of Representatives and the Senate with jurisdiction over laws that could be affected by a trade agreement resulting from the negotiations; and

(E) with regard to any negotiations and agreement relating to agricultural trade, also consult closely and on a timely basis (including immediately before initialing an agreement) with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(2) **CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO ENTRY INTO FORCE.**—Prior to exchanging notes providing for the entry into force of a trade agreement, the United States Trade Representative shall consult closely and on a timely basis with Members of Congress and committees as specified in paragraph (1), and keep them fully apprised of the measures a trading partner has taken to comply with those provisions of the agreement that are to take effect on the date that the agreement enters into force.

(3) **ENHANCED COORDINATION WITH CONGRESS.**—

(A) **WRITTEN GUIDELINES.**—The United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the chairmen and the ranking members of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, respectively—

(i) shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop written guidelines on enhanced coordination with Congress, including coordination with designated congressional advisers under subsection (b), regarding negotiations conducted under this title; and

(ii) may make such revisions to the guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

(B) **CONTENT OF GUIDELINES.**—The guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) shall enhance coordination with Congress through procedures to ensure—

(i) timely briefings upon request of any Member of Congress regarding negotiating objectives, the status of negotiations in progress conducted under this title, and the nature of any changes in the laws of the United States or the administration of those laws that may be recommended to Congress to carry out any trade agreement or any requirement of, amendment to, or recommendation under, that agreement; and

(ii) the sharing of detailed and timely information with Members of Congress, and their staff with proper security clearances as appropriate, regarding those negotiations and pertinent documents related to those negotiations (including classified information), and with committee staff with proper security clearances as would be appropriate in the light of the responsibilities of that committee over the trade agreements programs affected by those negotiations.

(C) **DISSEMINATION.**—The United States Trade Representative shall disseminate the guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) to all Federal agencies that could have jurisdiction over laws affected by trade negotiations.

(b) **DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ADVISERS.**—

(1) **DESIGNATION.**—

(A) **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**—In each Congress, any Member of the House of Representatives may be designated as a congressional adviser on trade policy and negotiations by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, after consulting with the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means and the chairman and ranking member of the committee from which the Member will be selected.

(B) **SENATE.**—In each Congress, any Member of the Senate may be designated as a congressional adviser on trade policy and negotiations by the President pro tempore of the Senate, after consultation with the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance and the

chairman and ranking member of the committee from which the Member will be selected.

(2) **CONSULTATIONS WITH DESIGNATED CONGRESSIONAL ADVISERS.**—In the course of negotiations conducted under this title, the United States Trade Representative shall consult closely and on a timely basis (including immediately before initialing an agreement) with, and keep fully apprised of the negotiations, the congressional advisers for trade policy and negotiations designated under paragraph (1).

(3) **ACCREDITATION.**—Each Member of Congress designated as a congressional adviser under paragraph (1) shall be accredited by the United States Trade Representative on behalf of the President as an official adviser to the United States delegations to international conferences, meetings, and negotiating sessions relating to trade agreements.

(c) **CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUPS ON NEGOTIATIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—By not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 30 days after the convening of each Congress, the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives shall convene the House Advisory Group on Negotiations and the chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate shall convene the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations (in this subsection referred to collectively as the “congressional advisory groups”).

(2) **MEMBERS AND FUNCTIONS.**—

(A) **MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE ADVISORY GROUP ON NEGOTIATIONS.**—In each Congress, the House Advisory Group on Negotiations shall be comprised of the following Members of the House of Representatives:

(i) The chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, and 3 additional members of such Committee (not more than 2 of whom are members of the same political party).

(ii) The chairman and ranking member, or their designees, of the committees of the House of Representatives that would have, under the Rules of the House of Representatives, jurisdiction over provisions of law affected by a trade agreement negotiation conducted at any time during that Congress and to which this title would apply.

(B) **MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENATE ADVISORY GROUP ON NEGOTIATIONS.**—In each Congress, the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations shall be comprised of the following Members of the Senate:

(i) The chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Finance and 3 additional members of such Committee (not more than 2 of whom are members of the same political party).

(ii) The chairman and ranking member, or their designees, of the committees of the Senate that would have, under the Rules of the Senate, jurisdiction over provisions of law affected by a trade agreement negotiation conducted at any time during that Congress and to which this title would apply.

(C) **ACCREDITATION.**—Each member of the congressional advisory groups described in subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B)(i) shall be accredited by the United States Trade Representative on behalf of the President as an official adviser to the United States delegation in negotiations for any trade agreement to which this title applies. Each member of the congressional advisory groups described in subparagraphs (A)(ii) and (B)(ii) shall be accredited by the United States Trade Representative on behalf of the President as an official adviser to the United States delegation in the negotiations by reason of which the member is in one of the congressional advisory groups.

(D) **CONSULTATION AND ADVICE.**—The congressional advisory groups shall consult with and provide advice to the Trade Representative regarding the formulation of specific objectives, negotiating strategies and positions, the development of the applicable trade agreement, and

compliance and enforcement of the negotiated commitments under the trade agreement.

(E) **CHAIR.**—The House Advisory Group on Negotiations shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Committee on Finance of the Senate.

(F) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER COMMITTEES.**—Members of any committee represented on one of the congressional advisory groups may submit comments to the member of the appropriate congressional advisory group from that committee regarding any matter related to a negotiation for any trade agreement to which this title applies.

(3) **GUIDELINES.**—

(A) **PURPOSE AND REVISION.**—The United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the chairmen and the ranking members of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, respectively—

(i) shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop written guidelines to facilitate the useful and timely exchange of information between the Trade Representative and the congressional advisory groups; and

(ii) may make such revisions to the guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

(B) **CONTENT.**—The guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) shall provide for, among other things—

(i) detailed briefings on a fixed timetable to be specified in the guidelines of the congressional advisory groups regarding negotiating objectives and positions and the status of the applicable negotiations, beginning as soon as practicable after the congressional advisory groups are convened, with more frequent briefings as trade negotiations enter the final stage;

(ii) access by members of the congressional advisory groups, and staff with proper security clearances, to pertinent documents relating to the negotiations, including classified materials;

(iii) the closest practicable coordination between the Trade Representative and the congressional advisory groups at all critical periods during the negotiations, including at negotiation sites;

(iv) after the applicable trade agreement is concluded, consultation regarding ongoing compliance and enforcement of negotiated commitments under the trade agreement; and

(v) the timeframe for submitting the report required under section 105(d)(3).

(4) **REQUEST FOR MEETING.**—Upon the request of a majority of either of the congressional advisory groups, the President shall meet with that congressional advisory group before initiating negotiations with respect to a trade agreement, or at any other time concerning the negotiations.

(d) **CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC.**—

(1) **GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.**—The United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the chairmen and the ranking members of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, respectively—

(A) shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop written guidelines on public access to information regarding negotiations conducted under this title; and

(B) may make such revisions to the guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

(2) **PURPOSES.**—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) facilitate transparency;

(B) encourage public participation; and

(C) promote collaboration in the negotiation process.

(3) **CONTENT.**—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall include procedures that—

(A) provide for rapid disclosure of information in forms that the public can readily find and use; and

(B) provide frequent opportunities for public input through Federal Register requests for comment and other means.

(4) **DISSEMINATION.**—The United States Trade Representative shall disseminate the guidelines developed under paragraph (1) to all Federal agencies that could have jurisdiction over laws affected by trade negotiations.

(e) **CONSULTATIONS WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—

(1) **GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH ADVISORY COMMITTEES.**—The United States Trade Representative, in consultation with the chairmen and the ranking members of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, respectively—

(A) shall, not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, develop written guidelines on enhanced coordination with advisory committees established pursuant to section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155) regarding negotiations conducted under this title; and

(B) may make such revisions to the guidelines as may be necessary from time to time.

(2) **CONTENT.**—The guidelines developed under paragraph (1) shall enhance coordination with advisory committees described in that paragraph through procedures to ensure—

(A) timely briefings of advisory committees and regular opportunities for advisory committees to provide input throughout the negotiation process on matters relevant to the sectors or functional areas represented by those committees; and

(B) the sharing of detailed and timely information with each member of an advisory committee regarding negotiations and pertinent documents related to the negotiation (including classified information) on matters relevant to the sectors or functional areas the member represents, and with a designee with proper security clearances of each such member as appropriate.

(3) **DISSEMINATION.**—The United States Trade Representative shall disseminate the guidelines developed under paragraph (1) to all Federal agencies that could have jurisdiction over laws affected by trade negotiations.

(f) **ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF CHIEF TRANSPARENCY OFFICER IN THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE.**—Section 141(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2171(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) There shall be in the Office one Chief Transparency Officer. The Chief Transparency Officer shall consult with Congress on transparency policy, coordinate transparency in trade negotiations, engage and assist the public, and advise the United States Trade Representative on transparency policy.”.

SEC. 105. NOTICE, CONSULTATIONS, AND REPORTS.

(a) **NOTICE, CONSULTATIONS, AND REPORTS BEFORE NEGOTIATION.**—

(1) **NOTICE.**—The President, with respect to any agreement that is subject to the provisions of section 103(b), shall—

(A) provide, at least 90 calendar days before initiating negotiations with a country, written notice to Congress of the President's intention to enter into the negotiations with that country and set forth in the notice the date on which the President intends to initiate those negotiations, the specific United States objectives for the negotiations with that country, and whether the President intends to seek an agreement, or changes to an existing agreement;

(B) before and after submission of the notice, consult regarding the negotiations with the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, such other committees of the

House and Senate as the President deems appropriate, and the House Advisory Group on Negotiations and the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations convened under section 104(c);

(C) upon the request of a majority of the members of either the House Advisory Group on Negotiations or the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations convened under section 104(c), meet with the requesting congressional advisory group before initiating the negotiations or at any other time concerning the negotiations; and

(D) after consulting with the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Finance, and at least 30 calendar days before initiating negotiations with a country, publish on a publicly available Internet website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, and regularly update thereafter, a detailed and comprehensive summary of the specific objectives with respect to the negotiations, and a description of how the agreement, if successfully concluded, will further those objectives and benefit the United States.

(2) **NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING AGRICULTURE.**—

(A) **ASSESSMENT AND CONSULTATIONS FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT.**—Before initiating or continuing negotiations the subject matter of which is directly related to the subject matter under section 102(b)(3)(B) with any country, the President shall—

(i) assess whether United States tariffs on agricultural products that were bound under the Uruguay Round Agreements are lower than the tariffs bound by that country;

(ii) consider whether the tariff levels bound and applied throughout the world with respect to imports from the United States are higher than United States tariffs and whether the negotiation provides an opportunity to address any such disparity; and

(iii) consult with the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate concerning the results of the assessment, whether it is appropriate for the United States to agree to further tariff reductions based on the conclusions reached in the assessment, and how all applicable negotiating objectives will be met.

(B) **SPECIAL CONSULTATIONS ON IMPORT SENSITIVE PRODUCTS.**—(i) Before initiating negotiations with regard to agriculture and, with respect to agreements described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 107(a), as soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the United States Trade Representative shall—

(1) identify those agricultural products subject to tariff rate quotas on the date of enactment of this Act, and agricultural products subject to tariff reductions by the United States as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreements, for which the rate of duty was reduced on January 1, 1995, to a rate which was not less than 97.5 percent of the rate of duty that applied to such article on December 31, 1994;

(2) consult with the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate concerning—

(aa) whether any further tariff reductions on the products identified under subclause (1) should be appropriate, taking into account the impact of any such tariff reduction on the United States industry producing the product concerned;

(bb) whether the products so identified face unjustified sanitary or phytosanitary restrictions, including those not based on scientific principles in contravention of the Uruguay Round Agreements; and

(cc) whether the countries participating in the negotiations maintain export subsidies or other programs, policies, or practices that distort world trade in such products and the impact of such programs, policies, and practices on United States producers of the products;

(III) request that the International Trade Commission prepare an assessment of the probable economic effects of any such tariff reduction on the United States industry producing the product concerned and on the United States economy as a whole; and

(IV) upon complying with subclauses (I), (II), and (III), notify the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate of those products identified under subclause (I) for which the Trade Representative intends to seek tariff liberalization in the negotiations and the reasons for seeking such tariff liberalization.

(i) If, after negotiations described in clause (i) are commenced—

(I) the United States Trade Representative identifies any additional agricultural product described in clause (i)(I) for tariff reductions which were not the subject of a notification under clause (i)(IV), or

(II) any additional agricultural product described in clause (i)(I) is the subject of a request for tariff reductions by a party to the negotiations,

the Trade Representative shall, as soon as practicable, notify the committees referred to in clause (i)(IV) of those products and the reasons for seeking such tariff reductions.

(3) **NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE FISHING INDUSTRY.**—Before initiating, or continuing, negotiations that directly relate to fish or shellfish trade with any country, the President shall consult with the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and shall keep the Committees apprised of the negotiations on an ongoing and timely basis.

(4) **NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING TEXTILES.**—Before initiating or continuing negotiations the subject matter of which is directly related to textiles and apparel products with any country, the President shall—

(A) assess whether United States tariffs on textile and apparel products that were bound under the Uruguay Round Agreements are lower than the tariffs bound by that country and whether the negotiation provides an opportunity to address any such disparity; and

(B) consult with the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate concerning the results of the assessment, whether it is appropriate for the United States to agree to further tariff reductions based on the conclusions reached in the assessment, and how all applicable negotiating objectives will be met.

(5) **ADHERENCE TO EXISTING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENT OBLIGATIONS.**—In determining whether to enter into negotiations with a particular country, the President shall take into account the extent to which that country has implemented, or has accelerated the implementation of, its international trade and investment commitments to the United States, including pursuant to the WTO Agreement.

(b) **CONSULTATION WITH CONGRESS BEFORE ENTRY INTO AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **CONSULTATION.**—Before entering into any trade agreement under section 103(b), the President shall consult with—

(A) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

(B) each other committee of the House and the Senate, and each joint committee of Congress, which has jurisdiction over legislation involving subject matters which would be affected by the trade agreement; and

(C) the House Advisory Group on Negotiations and the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations convened under section 104(c).

(2) SCOPE.—The consultation described in paragraph (1) shall include consultation with respect to—

(A) the nature of the agreement;

(B) how and to what extent the agreement will achieve the applicable purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title; and

(C) the implementation of the agreement under section 106, including the general effect of the agreement on existing laws.

(3) REPORT REGARDING UNITED STATES TRADE REMEDY LAWS.—

(A) CHANGES IN CERTAIN TRADE LAWS.—The President, not less than 180 calendar days before the day on which the President enters into a trade agreement under section 103(b), shall report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate—

(i) the range of proposals advanced in the negotiations with respect to that agreement, that may be in the final agreement, and that could require amendments to title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) or to chapter 1 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 et seq.); and

(ii) how these proposals relate to the objectives described in section 102(b)(16).

(B) RESOLUTIONS.—(i) At any time after the transmission of the report under subparagraph (A), if a resolution is introduced with respect to that report in either House of Congress, the procedures set forth in clauses (iii) through (vii) shall apply to that resolution if—

(I) no other resolution with respect to that report has previously been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be, pursuant to those procedures; and

(II) no procedural disapproval resolution under section 106(b) introduced with respect to a trade agreement entered into pursuant to the negotiations to which the report under subparagraph (A) relates has previously been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be.

(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, the term “resolution” means only a resolution of either House of Congress, the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the

_____ finds that the proposed changes to United States trade remedy laws contained in the report of the President transmitted to Congress on _____ under section 105(b)(3) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 with respect to _____, are inconsistent with the negotiating objectives described in section 102(b)(16) of that Act.”, with the first blank space being filled with the name of the resolving House of Congress, the second blank space being filled with the appropriate date of the report, and the third blank space being filled with the name of the country or countries involved.

(iii) Resolutions in the House of Representatives—

(I) may be introduced by any Member of the House;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Rules; and

(III) may not be amended by either Committee.

(iv) Resolutions in the Senate—

(I) may be introduced by any Member of the Senate;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Finance; and

(III) may not be amended.

(v) It is not in order for the House of Representatives to consider any resolution that is not reported by the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, by the Committee on Rules.

(vi) It is not in order for the Senate to consider any resolution that is not reported by the Committee on Finance.

(vii) The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 152 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.

2192) (relating to floor consideration of certain resolutions in the House and Senate) shall apply to resolutions.

(4) ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS.—The report required under section 135(e)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(e)(1)) regarding any trade agreement entered into under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 shall be provided to the President, Congress, and the United States Trade Representative not later than 30 days after the date on which the President notifies Congress under section 103(a)(2) or 106(a)(1)(A) of the intention of the President to enter into the agreement.

(c) INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION ASSESSMENT.—

(1) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO COMMISSION.—The President, not later than 90 calendar days before the day on which the President enters into a trade agreement under section 103(b), shall provide the International Trade Commission (referred to in this subsection as the “Commission”) with the details of the agreement as it exists at that time and request the Commission to prepare and submit an assessment of the agreement as described in paragraph (2). Between the time the President makes the request under this paragraph and the time the Commission submits the assessment, the President shall keep the Commission current with respect to the details of the agreement.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 105 calendar days after the President enters into a trade agreement under section 103(b), the Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report assessing the likely impact of the agreement on the United States economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors, including the impact the agreement will have on the gross domestic product, exports and imports, aggregate employment and employment opportunities, the production, employment, and competitive position of industries likely to be significantly affected by the agreement, and the interests of United States consumers.

(3) REVIEW OF EMPIRICAL LITERATURE.—In preparing the assessment under paragraph (2), the Commission shall review available economic assessments regarding the agreement, including literature regarding any substantially equivalent proposed agreement, and shall provide in its assessment a description of the analyses used and conclusions drawn in such literature, and a discussion of areas of consensus and divergence between the various analyses and conclusions, including those of the Commission regarding the agreement.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall make each assessment under paragraph (2) available to the public.

(d) REPORTS SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEES WITH AGREEMENT.—

(1) ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—The President shall—

(A) conduct environmental reviews of future trade and investment agreements, consistent with Executive Order 13141 (64 Fed. Reg. 63169), dated November 16, 1999, and its relevant guidelines; and

(B) submit a report on those reviews and on the content and operation of consultative mechanisms established pursuant to section 102(c) to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate at the time the President submits to Congress a copy of the final legal text of an agreement pursuant to section 106(a)(1)(E).

(2) EMPLOYMENT IMPACT REVIEWS AND REPORTS.—The President shall—

(A) review the impact of future trade agreements on United States employment, including labor markets, modeled after Executive Order 13141 (64 Fed. Reg. 63169) to the extent appropriate in establishing procedures and criteria; and

(B) submit a report on such reviews to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate at the time the President submits to Congress a copy of the final legal text of an agreement pursuant to section 106(a)(1)(E).

(3) REPORT ON LABOR RIGHTS.—The President shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate, on a time-frame determined in accordance with section 104(c)(3)(B)(v)—

(A) a meaningful labor rights report of the country, or countries, with respect to which the President is negotiating; and

(B) a description of any provisions that would require changes to the labor laws and labor practices of the United States.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall make all reports required under this subsection available to the public.

(e) IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—At the time the President submits to Congress a copy of the final legal text of an agreement pursuant to section 106(a)(1)(E), the President shall also submit to Congress a plan for implementing and enforcing the agreement.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The implementation and enforcement plan required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) BORDER PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.—A description of additional personnel required at border entry points, including a list of additional customs and agricultural inspectors.

(B) AGENCY STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.—A description of additional personnel required by Federal agencies responsible for monitoring and implementing the trade agreement, including personnel required by the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture (including additional personnel required to implement sanitary and phytosanitary measures in order to obtain market access for United States exports), the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Treasury, and such other agencies as may be necessary.

(C) CUSTOMS INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS.—A description of the additional equipment and facilities needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(D) IMPACT ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—A description of the impact the trade agreement will have on State and local governments as a result of increases in trade.

(E) COST ANALYSIS.—An analysis of the costs associated with each of the items listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(3) BUDGET SUBMISSION.—The President shall include a request for the resources necessary to support the plan required by paragraph (1) in the first budget of the President submitted to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, after the date of the submission of the plan.

(4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall make the plan required under this subsection available to the public.

(f) OTHER REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON PENALTIES.—Not later than one year after the imposition by the United States of a penalty or remedy permitted by a trade agreement to which this title applies, the President shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the effectiveness of the penalty or remedy applied under United States law in enforcing United States rights under the trade agreement, which shall address whether the penalty or remedy was effective in changing the behavior of the targeted party and whether the penalty or remedy had any adverse impact on parties or interests not party to the dispute.

(2) REPORT ON IMPACT OF TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not later than 5 years thereafter, the United States International Trade Commission shall submit to the

Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the economic impact on the United States of all trade agreements with respect to which Congress has enacted an implementing bill under trade authorities procedures since January 1, 1984.

(3) ENFORCEMENT CONSULTATIONS AND REPORTS.—(A) The United States Trade Representative shall consult with the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate after acceptance of a petition for review or taking an enforcement action in regard to an obligation under a trade agreement, including a labor or environmental obligation. During such consultations, the United States Trade Representative shall describe the matter, including the basis for such action and the application of any relevant legal obligations.

(B) As part of the report required pursuant to section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2213), the President shall report annually to Congress on enforcement actions taken pursuant to a trade agreement to which the United States is a party, as well as on any public reports issued by Federal agencies on enforcement matters relating to a trade agreement.

(g) ADDITIONAL COORDINATION WITH MEMBERS.—Any Member of the House of Representatives may submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and any Member of the Senate may submit to the Committee on Finance of the Senate the views of that Member on any matter relevant to a proposed trade agreement, and the relevant Committee shall receive those views for consideration.

SEC. 106. IMPLEMENTATION OF TRADE AGREEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) NOTIFICATION AND SUBMISSION.—Any agreement entered into under section 103(b) shall enter into force with respect to the United States if (and only if)—

(A) the President, at least 90 calendar days before the day on which the President enters into the trade agreement, notifies the House of Representatives and the Senate of the President's intention to enter into the agreement, and promptly thereafter publishes notice of such intention in the Federal Register;

(B) the President, at least 60 days before the day on which the President enters into the agreement, publishes the text of the agreement on a publicly available Internet website of the Office of the United States Trade Representative;

(C) within 60 days after entering into the agreement, the President submits to Congress a description of those changes to existing laws that the President considers would be required in order to bring the United States into compliance with the agreement;

(D) the President, at least 30 days before submitting to Congress the materials under subparagraph (E), submits to Congress—

(i) a draft statement of any administrative action proposed to implement the agreement; and
(ii) a copy of the final legal text of the agreement;

(E) after entering into the agreement, the President submits to Congress, on a day on which both Houses of Congress are in session, a copy of the final legal text of the agreement, together with—

(i) a draft of an implementing bill described in section 103(b)(3);

(ii) a statement of any administrative action proposed to implement the trade agreement; and
(iii) the supporting information described in paragraph (2)(A);

(F) the implementing bill is enacted into law; and

(G) the President, not later than 30 days before the date on which the agreement enters into force with respect to a party to the agreement, submits written notice to Congress that the

President has determined that the party has taken measures necessary to comply with those provisions of the agreement that are to take effect on the date on which the agreement enters into force.

(2) SUPPORTING INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The supporting information required under paragraph (1)(E)(iii) consists of—

(i) an explanation as to how the implementing bill and proposed administrative action will change or affect existing law; and
(ii) a statement—

(I) asserting that the agreement makes progress in achieving the applicable purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title; and

(II) setting forth the reasons of the President regarding—

(aa) how and to what extent the agreement makes progress in achieving the applicable purposes, policies, and objectives referred to in subclause (I);

(bb) whether and how the agreement changes provisions of an agreement previously negotiated;

(cc) how the agreement serves the interests of United States commerce; and

(dd) how the implementing bill meets the standards set forth in section 103(b)(3).

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The President shall make the supporting information described in subparagraph (A) available to the public.

(3) RECIPROCAL BENEFITS.—In order to ensure that a foreign country that is not a party to a trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) does not receive benefits under the agreement unless the country is also subject to the obligations under the agreement, the implementing bill submitted with respect to the agreement shall provide that the benefits and obligations under the agreement apply only to the parties to the agreement, if such application is consistent with the terms of the agreement. The implementing bill may also provide that the benefits and obligations under the agreement do not apply uniformly to all parties to the agreement, if such application is consistent with the terms of the agreement.

(4) DISCLOSURE OF COMMITMENTS.—Any agreement or other understanding with a foreign government or governments (whether oral or in writing) that—

(A) relates to a trade agreement with respect to which Congress enacts an implementing bill under trade authorities procedures; and

(B) is not disclosed to Congress before an implementing bill with respect to that agreement is introduced in either House of Congress,

shall not be considered to be part of the agreement approved by Congress and shall have no force and effect under United States law or in any dispute settlement body.

(b) LIMITATIONS ON TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—

(1) FOR LACK OF NOTICE OR CONSULTATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) if during the 60-day period beginning on the date that one House of Congress agrees to a procedural disapproval resolution for lack of notice or consultations with respect to such trade agreement or agreements, the other House separately agrees to a procedural disapproval resolution with respect to such trade agreement or agreements.

(B) PROCEDURAL DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION.—

(i) For purposes of this paragraph, the term “procedural disapproval resolution” means a resolution of either House of Congress, the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the President has failed or refused to notify or consult in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities

and Accountability Act of 2015 on negotiations with respect to _____ and, therefore, the trade authorities procedures under that Act shall not apply to any implementing bill submitted with respect to such trade agreement or agreements.”, with the blank space being filled with a description of the trade agreement or agreements with respect to which the President is considered to have failed or refused to notify or consult.

(ii) For purposes of clause (i) and paragraphs (3)(C) and (4)(C), the President has “failed or refused to notify or consult in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015” on negotiations with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements if—

(I) the President has failed or refused to consult (as the case may be) in accordance with sections 104 and 105 and this section with respect to the negotiations, agreement, or agreements;

(II) guidelines under section 104 have not been developed or met with respect to the negotiations, agreement, or agreements;

(III) the President has not met with the House Advisory Group on Negotiations or the Senate Advisory Group on Negotiations pursuant to a request made under section 104(c)(4) with respect to the negotiations, agreement, or agreements; or

(IV) the agreement or agreements fail to make progress in achieving the purposes, policies, priorities, and objectives of this title.

(2) PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING RESOLUTIONS.—(A) Procedural disapproval resolutions—

(i) in the House of Representatives—
(I) may be introduced by any Member of the House;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, to the Committee on Rules; and

(III) may not be amended by either Committee; and

(ii) in the Senate—
(I) may be introduced by any Member of the Senate;

(II) shall be referred to the Committee on Finance; and

(III) may not be amended.

(B) The provisions of subsections (d) and (e) of section 152 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2192) (relating to the floor consideration of certain resolutions in the House and Senate) apply to a procedural disapproval resolution introduced with respect to a trade agreement if no other procedural disapproval resolution with respect to that trade agreement has previously been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be, and if no resolution described in clause (ii) of section 105(b)(3)(B) with respect to that trade agreement has been reported in that House of Congress by the Committee on Ways and Means or the Committee on Finance, as the case may be, pursuant to the procedures set forth in clauses (iii) through (vii) of such section.

(C) It is not in order for the House of Representatives to consider any procedural disapproval resolution not reported by the Committee on Ways and Means and, in addition, by the Committee on Rules.

(D) It is not in order for the Senate to consider any procedural disapproval resolution not reported by the Committee on Finance.

(3) CONSIDERATION IN SENATE OF CONSULTATION AND COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION TO REMOVE TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—

(A) REPORTING OF RESOLUTION.—If, when the Committee on Finance of the Senate meets on whether to report an implementing bill with respect to a trade agreement or agreements entered into under section 103(b), the committee fails to favorably report the bill, the committee shall report a resolution described in subparagraph (C).

(B) APPLICABILITY OF TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.—The trade authorities procedures

shall not apply in the Senate to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or agreements described in subparagraph (A) if the Committee on Finance reports a resolution described in subparagraph (C) and such resolution is agreed to by the Senate.

(C) **RESOLUTION DESCRIBED.**—A resolution described in this subparagraph is a resolution of the Senate originating from the Committee on Finance the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the President has failed or refused to notify or consult in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 on negotiations with respect to _____ and, therefore, the trade authorities procedures under that Act shall not apply in the Senate to any implementing bill submitted with respect to such trade agreement or agreements.”, with the blank space being filled with a description of the trade agreement or agreements described in subparagraph (A).

(D) **PROCEDURES.**—If the Senate does not agree to a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to a resolution described in subparagraph (C), the resolution shall be committed to the Committee on Finance.

(4) **CONSIDERATION IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A CONSULTATION AND COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION.**—

(A) **QUALIFICATIONS FOR REPORTING RESOLUTION.**—If—

(i) the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives reports an implementing bill with respect to a trade agreement or agreements entered into under section 103(b) with other than a favorable recommendation; and

(ii) a Member of the House of Representatives has introduced a consultation and compliance resolution on the legislative day following the filing of a report to accompany the implementing bill with other than a favorable recommendation,

then the Committee on Ways and Means shall consider a consultation and compliance resolution pursuant to subparagraph (B).

(B) **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF A QUALIFYING RESOLUTION.**—(i) Not later than the fourth legislative day after the date of introduction of the resolution, the Committee on Ways and Means shall meet to consider a resolution meeting the qualifications set forth in subparagraph (A).

(ii) After consideration of one such resolution by the Committee on Ways and Means, this subparagraph shall not apply to any other such resolution.

(iii) If the Committee on Ways and Means has not reported the resolution by the sixth legislative day after the date of its introduction, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

(C) **CONSULTATION AND COMPLIANCE RESOLUTION DESCRIBED.**—A consultation and compliance resolution—

(i) is a resolution of the House of Representatives, the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: “That the President has failed or refused to notify or consult in accordance with the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 on negotiations with respect to _____ and, therefore, the trade authorities procedures under that Act shall not apply in the House of Representatives to any implementing bill submitted with respect to such trade agreement or agreements.”, with the blank space being filled with a description of the trade agreement or agreements described in subparagraph (A); and

(ii) shall be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

(D) **APPLICABILITY OF TRADE AUTHORITIES PROCEDURES.**—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply in the House of Representatives to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or agreements which are

the object of a consultation and compliance resolution if such resolution is adopted by the House.

(5) **FOR FAILURE TO MEET OTHER REQUIREMENTS.**—Not later than December 15, 2015, the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Attorney General, and the United States Trade Representative, shall transmit to Congress a report setting forth the strategy of the executive branch to address concerns of Congress regarding whether dispute settlement panels and the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization have added to obligations, or diminished rights, of the United States, as described in section 102(b)(15)(C). Trade authorities procedures shall not apply to any implementing bill with respect to an agreement negotiated under the auspices of the World Trade Organization unless the Secretary of Commerce has issued such report by the deadline specified in this paragraph.

(6) **LIMITATIONS ON PROCEDURES WITH RESPECT TO AGREEMENTS WITH COUNTRIES NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The trade authorities procedures shall not apply to any implementing bill submitted with respect to a trade agreement or trade agreements entered into under section 103(b) with a country to which the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking are applicable and the government of which does not fully comply with such standards and is not making significant efforts to bring the country into compliance (commonly referred to as a “tier 3” country), as determined in the most recent annual report on trafficking in persons submitted under section 110(b)(1) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7107(b)(1)).

(B) **MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE ELIMINATION OF TRAFFICKING DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term “minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking” means the standards set forth in section 108 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7106).

(C) **RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE.**—Subsection (b) of this section, section 103(c), and section 105(b)(3) are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House of Representatives and the Senate, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and such procedures supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent with such other rules; and

(2) with the full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules (so far as relating to the procedures of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as any other rule of that House.

SEC. 107. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN TRADE AGREEMENTS FOR WHICH NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEGUN.

(a) **CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.**—Notwithstanding the prenegotiation notification and consultation requirement described in section 105(a), if an agreement to which section 103(b) applies—

(1) is entered into under the auspices of the World Trade Organization,

(2) is entered into with the Trans-Pacific Partnership countries with respect to which notifications have been made in a manner consistent with section 105(a)(1)(A) as of the date of the enactment of this Act,

(3) is entered into with the European Union,

(4) is an agreement with respect to international trade in services entered into with WTO members with respect to which a notification has been made in a manner consistent with section 105(a)(1)(A) as of the date of the enactment of this Act, or

(5) is an agreement with respect to environmental goods entered into with WTO members with respect to which a notification has been made in a manner consistent with section

105(a)(1)(A) as of the date of the enactment of this Act,

and results from negotiations that were commenced before the date of the enactment of this Act, subsection (b) shall apply.

(b) **TREATMENT OF AGREEMENTS.**—In the case of any agreement to which subsection (a) applies, the applicability of the trade authorities procedures to implementing bills shall be determined without regard to the requirements of section 105(a) (relating only to notice prior to initiating negotiations), and any resolution under paragraph (1)(B), (3)(C), or (4)(C) of section 106(b) shall not be in order on the basis of a failure or refusal to comply with the provisions of section 105(a), if (and only if) the President, as soon as feasible after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) notifies Congress of the negotiations described in subsection (a), the specific United States objectives in the negotiations, and whether the President is seeking a new agreement or changes to an existing agreement; and

(2) before and after submission of the notice, consults regarding the negotiations with the committees referred to in section 105(a)(1)(B) and the House and Senate Advisory Groups on Negotiations convened under section 104(c).

SEC. 108. SOVEREIGNTY.

(a) **UNITED STATES LAW TO PREVAIL IN EVENT OF CONFLICT.**—No provision of any trade agreement entered into under section 103(b), nor the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance, that is inconsistent with any law of the United States, any State of the United States, or any locality of the United States shall have effect.

(b) **AMENDMENTS OR MODIFICATIONS OF UNITED STATES LAW.**—No provision of any trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) shall prevent the United States, any State of the United States, or any locality of the United States from amending or modifying any law of the United States, that State, or that locality (as the case may be).

(c) **DISPUTE SETTLEMENT REPORTS.**—Reports, including findings and recommendations, issued by dispute settlement panels convened pursuant to any trade agreement entered into under section 103(b) shall have no binding effect on the law of the United States, the Government of the United States, or the law or government of any State or locality of the United States.

SEC. 109. INTERESTS OF SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Trade Representative should facilitate participation by small businesses in the trade negotiation process; and

(2) the functions of the Office of the United States Trade Representative relating to small businesses should continue to be reflected in the title of the Assistant United States Trade Representative assigned the responsibility for small businesses.

(b) **CONSIDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESS INTERESTS.**—The Assistant United States Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access, and Industrial Competitiveness shall be responsible for ensuring that the interests of small businesses are considered in all trade negotiations in accordance with the objective described in section 102(a)(8).

SEC. 110. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS; APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.

(a) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **ADVICE FROM UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION.**—Section 131 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2151) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking “section 2103(a) or (b) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 2103(b) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103(b) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”;

(B) in subsection (b), by striking “section 2103(a)(3)(A) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103(a)(4)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(C) in subsection (c), by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103(a) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(2) HEARINGS.—Section 132 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2152) is amended by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(3) PUBLIC HEARINGS.—Section 133(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2153(a)) is amended by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(4) PREREQUISITES FOR OFFERS.—Section 134 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2154) is amended by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” each place it appears and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(5) INFORMATION AND ADVICE FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.—Section 135 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” each place it appears and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(II) by striking “not later than the date on which the President notifies the Congress under section 2105(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “not later than the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President notifies Congress under section 106(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 2102 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 102 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(6) PROCEDURES RELATING TO IMPLEMENTING BILLS.—Section 151 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2191) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “section 2105(a)(1) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 106(a)(1) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “section 2105(a)(1) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 106(a)(1) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(7) TRANSMISSION OF AGREEMENTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 162(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2212(a)) is amended by striking “section 2103 of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002” and inserting “section 103 of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015”.

(b) APPLICATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—For purposes of applying sections 125, 126, and

127 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2135, 2136, and 2137)—

(1) any trade agreement entered into under section 103 shall be treated as an agreement entered into under section 101 or 102 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2111 or 2112), as appropriate; and

(2) any proclamation or Executive order issued pursuant to a trade agreement entered into under section 103 shall be treated as a proclamation or Executive order issued pursuant to a trade agreement entered into under section 102 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2112).

SEC. 111. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURE.—The term “Agreement on Agriculture” means the agreement referred to in section 101(d)(2) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(2)).

(2) AGREEMENT ON SAFEGUARDS.—The term “Agreement on Safeguards” means the agreement referred to in section 101(d)(13) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(13)).

(3) AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES.—The term “Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures” means the agreement referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(12)).

(4) ANTIDUMPING AGREEMENT.—The term “Antidumping Agreement” means the Agreement on Implementation of Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 referred to in section 101(d)(7) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(7)).

(5) APPELLATE BODY.—The term “Appellate Body” means the Appellate Body established under Article 17.1 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.

(6) COMMON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “common multilateral environmental agreement” means any agreement specified in subparagraph (B) or included under subparagraph (C) to which both the United States and one or more other parties to the negotiations are full parties, including any current or future mutually agreed upon protocols, amendments, annexes, or adjustments to such an agreement.

(B) AGREEMENTS SPECIFIED.—The agreements specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, done at Washington March 3, 1973 (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249).

(ii) The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, done at Montreal September 16, 1987.

(iii) The Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, done at London February 17, 1978.

(iv) The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, done at Ramsar February 2, 1971 (TIAS 11084).

(v) The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, done at Canberra May 20, 1980 (33 UST 3476).

(vi) The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, done at Washington December 2, 1946 (62 Stat. 1716).

(vii) The Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, done at Washington May 31, 1949 (1 UST 230).

(C) ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS.—Both the United States and one or more other parties to the negotiations may agree to include any other multilateral environmental or conservation agreement to which they are full parties as a common multilateral environmental agreement under this paragraph.

(7) CORE LABOR STANDARDS.—The term “core labor standards” means—

(A) freedom of association;

(B) the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

(C) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor;

(D) the effective abolition of child labor and a prohibition on the worst forms of child labor; and

(E) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

(8) DISPUTE SETTLEMENT UNDERSTANDING.—The term “Dispute Settlement Understanding” means the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes referred to in section 101(d)(16) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(16)).

(9) ENABLING CLAUSE.—The term “Enabling Clause” means the Decision on Differential and More Favourable Treatment, Reciprocity and Fuller Participation of Developing Countries (L/4903), adopted November 28, 1979, under GATT 1947 (as defined in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501)).

(10) ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The term “environmental laws”, with respect to the laws of the United States, means environmental statutes and regulations enforceable by action of the Federal Government.

(11) GATT 1994.—The term “GATT 1994” has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501).

(12) GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SERVICES.—The term “General Agreement on Trade in Services” means the General Agreement on Trade in Services (referred to in section 101(d)(14) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(14))).

(13) GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT.—The term “Government Procurement Agreement” means the Agreement on Government Procurement referred to in section 101(d)(17) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d)(17)).

(14) ILO.—The term “ILO” means the International Labor Organization.

(15) IMPORT SENSITIVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT.—The term “import sensitive agricultural product” means an agricultural product—

(A) with respect to which, as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreements, the rate of duty was the subject of tariff reductions by the United States and, pursuant to such Agreements, was reduced on January 1, 1995, to a rate that was not less than 97.5 percent of the rate of duty that applied to such article on December 31, 1994; or

(B) which was subject to a tariff rate quota on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(16) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT.—The term “Information Technology Agreement” means the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products of the World Trade Organization, agreed to at Singapore December 13, 1996.

(17) INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CORE LABOR STANDARDS.—The term “internationally recognized core labor standards” means the core labor standards only as stated in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-Up (1998).

(18) LABOR LAWS.—The term “labor laws” means the statutes and regulations, or provisions thereof, of a party to the negotiations that are directly related to core labor standards as well as other labor protections for children and minors and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health, and for the United States, includes Federal statutes and regulations addressing those standards, protections, or conditions, but does not include State or local labor laws.

(19) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen;

(B) a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that is organized under the laws of the United States; and

(C) a partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that is organized under the laws of a foreign country and is controlled by entities described in subparagraph (B) or United States citizens, or both.

(20) URUGUAY ROUND AGREEMENTS.—The term “Uruguay Round Agreements” has the meaning given that term in section 2(7) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(7)).

(21) WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION; WTO.—The terms “World Trade Organization” and “WTO” mean the organization established pursuant to the WTO Agreement.

(22) WTO AGREEMENT.—The term “WTO Agreement” means the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization entered into on April 15, 1994.

(23) WTO MEMBER.—The term “WTO member” has the meaning given that term in section 2(10) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(10)).

TITLE II—EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

SEC. 202. APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) REPEAL OF SNAPBACK.—Section 233 of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–40; 125 Stat. 416) is repealed.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, the provisions of chapters 2 through 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on December 31, 2013, and as amended by this title, shall—

(1) take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) apply to petitions for certification filed under chapter 2, 3, or 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after such date of enactment.

(c) REFERENCES.—Except as otherwise provided in this title, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a provision of chapters 2 through 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, the reference shall be considered to be made to a provision of any such chapter, as in effect on December 31, 2013.

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) EXTENSION OF TERMINATION PROVISIONS.—Section 285 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 note) is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “June 30, 2021”.

(b) TRAINING FUNDS.—Section 236(a)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2296(a)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “shall not exceed” and all that follows and inserting “shall not exceed \$450,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2021.”.

(c) REEMPLOYMENT TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE.—Section 246(b)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2318(b)(1)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “June 30, 2021”.

(d) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—Section 245(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2317(a)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2013” and inserting “June 30, 2021”.

(2) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—Section 255(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2345(a)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2012 and 2013” and all that follows through “December 31, 2013” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2021”.

(3) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS.—Section 298(a) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2401g(a)) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2012 and 2013” and all that follows through “December 31, 2013” and inserting “fiscal years 2015 through 2021”.

SEC. 204. PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING.

(a) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—Section 239(j) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2311(j)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “DATA REPORTING” and inserting “PERFORMANCE MEASURES”;

(2) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “a quarterly” and inserting “an annual”; and

(ii) by striking “data” and inserting “measures”;

(B) in subparagraph (A), by striking “core” and inserting “primary”; and

(C) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “that promote efficiency and effectiveness” after “assistance program”;

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “CORE INDICATORS DESCRIBED” and inserting “INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE”; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) PRIMARY INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE DESCRIBED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The primary indicators of performance referred to in paragraph (1)(A) shall consist of—

“(I) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who are in unsubsidized employment during the second calendar quarter after exit from the program;

“(II) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program and who are in unsubsidized employment during the fourth calendar quarter after exit from the program;

“(III) the median earnings of workers described in subclause (I);

“(IV) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who, subject to clause (ii), obtain a recognized postsecondary credential or a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, during participation in the program or within one year after exit from the program; and

“(V) the percentage and number of workers who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who, during a year while receiving such benefits, are in an education or training program that leads to a recognized postsecondary credential or employment and who are achieving measurable gains in skills toward such a credential or employment.

“(ii) INDICATOR RELATING TO CREDENTIAL.—For purposes of clause (i)(IV), a worker who received benefits under the trade adjustment assistance program who obtained a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent shall be included in the percentage counted for purposes of that clause only if the worker, in addition to obtaining such a diploma or its recognized equivalent, has obtained or retained employment or is in an education or training program leading to a recognized postsecondary credential within one year after exit from the program.”;

(4) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “DATA” and inserting “MEASURES”;

(B) by striking “quarterly” and inserting “annual”; and

(C) by striking “data” and inserting “measures”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) ACCESSIBILITY OF STATE PERFORMANCE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall, on an annual basis, make available (including by electronic means), in an easily understandable format, the reports of cooperating States or cooperating State agencies required by paragraph (1) and the information contained in those reports.”.

(b) COLLECTION AND PUBLICATION OF DATA.—Section 249B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2323) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “enrolled in” and inserting “who received”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking “complete” and inserting “exited”; and

(II) by striking “who were enrolled in” and inserting “, including who received”;

(iii) in subparagraph (E), by striking “complete” and inserting “exited”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F), by striking “complete” and inserting “exit”; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(G) The average cost per worker of receiving training approved under section 236.

“(H) The percentage of workers who received training approved under section 236 and obtained unsubsidized employment in a field related to that training.”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by striking “quarterly” each place it appears and inserting “annual”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) The median earnings of workers described in section 239(j)(2)(A)(i)(III) during the second calendar quarter after exit from the program, expressed as a percentage of the median earnings of such workers before the calendar quarter in which such workers began receiving benefits under this chapter.”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) the reports required under section 239(j);”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “a quarterly” and inserting “an annual”.

(c) RECOGNIZED POSTSECONDARY CREDENTIAL DEFINED.—Section 247 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2319) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(19) The term ‘recognized postsecondary credential’ means a credential consisting of an industry-recognized certificate or certification, a certificate of completion of an apprenticeship, a license recognized by a State or the Federal Government, or an associate or baccalaureate degree.”.

SEC. 205. APPLICABILITY OF TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS.—

(1) PETITIONS FILED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2014, AND BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(A) CERTIFICATIONS OF WORKERS NOT CERTIFIED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

(i) CRITERIA IF A DETERMINATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor has not made a determination with respect to whether to certify a group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in clause (iii), the Secretary shall make that determination based on the requirements of section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(ii) RECONSIDERATION OF DENIALS OF CERTIFICATIONS.—If, before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary made a determination not to certify a group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in clause (iii), the Secretary shall—

(I) reconsider that determination; and

(II) if the group of workers meets the requirements of section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment, certify the group of workers as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

(iii) **PETITION DESCRIBED.**—A petition described in this clause is a petition for a certification of eligibility for a group of workers filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after January 1, 2014, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS.—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in clause (ii), a worker certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be eligible, on and after the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, to receive benefits only under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(ii) **COMPUTATION OF MAXIMUM BENEFITS.**—Benefits received by a worker described in clause (i) under chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be included in any determination of the maximum benefits for which the worker is eligible under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **PETITIONS FILED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2014.**—A worker certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or before December 31, 2013, shall continue to be eligible to apply for and receive benefits under the provisions of chapter 2 of title II of such Act, as in effect on December 31, 2013.

(3) **QUALIFYING SEPARATIONS WITH RESPECT TO PETITIONS FILED WITHIN 90 DAYS OF DATE OF ENACTMENT.**—Section 223(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall be applied and administered by substituting “before January 1, 2014” for “more than one year before the date of the petition on which such certification was granted” for purposes of determining whether a worker is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance pursuant to a petition filed under section 221 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act and on or before the date that is 90 days after such date of enactment.

(b) TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.—

(1) **CERTIFICATION OF FIRMS NOT CERTIFIED BEFORE DATE OF ENACTMENT.**—

(A) **CRITERIA IF A DETERMINATION HAS NOT BEEN MADE.**—If, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce has not made a determination with respect to whether to certify a firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall make that determination based on the requirements of section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment.

(B) **RECONSIDERATION OF DENIAL OF CERTAIN PETITIONS.**—If, before the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary made a determination not to certify a firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 pursuant to a petition described in subparagraph (C), the Secretary shall—

(i) reconsider that determination; and
(ii) if the firm meets the requirements of section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on such date of enactment, certify the firm as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

(C) **PETITION DESCRIBED.**—A petition described in this subparagraph is a petition for a certification of eligibility filed by a firm or its representative under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 on or after January 1, 2014, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) **CERTIFICATION OF FIRMS THAT DID NOT SUBMIT PETITIONS BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2014, AND DATE OF ENACTMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Commerce shall certify a firm described in subparagraph (B) as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance

under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, if the firm or its representative files a petition for a certification of eligibility under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 not later than 90 days after such date of enactment.

(B) **FIRM DESCRIBED.**—A firm described in this subparagraph is a firm that the Secretary determines would have been certified as eligible to apply for adjustment assistance if—

(i) the firm or its representative had filed a petition for a certification of eligibility under section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 on a date during the period beginning on January 1, 2014, and ending on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(ii) the provisions of chapter 3 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on that date during the period described in clause (i).

SEC. 206. SUNSET PROVISIONS.

(a) **APPLICATION OF PRIOR LAW.**—Subject to subsection (b), beginning on July 1, 2021, the provisions of chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.), as in effect on January 1, 2014, shall be in effect and apply, except that in applying and administering such chapters—

(1) paragraph (1) of section 231(c) of that Act shall be applied and administered as if subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of that paragraph were not in effect;

(2) section 233 of that Act shall be applied and administered—

(A) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (2), by substituting “104-week period” for “104-week period” and all that follows through “130-week period”); and

(ii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by substituting “65” for “52”; and

(II) by substituting “78-week period” for “52-week period” each place it appears; and

(B) by applying and administering subsection (g) as if it read as follows:

“(g) **PAYMENT OF TRADE READJUSTMENT ALLOWANCES TO COMPLETE TRAINING.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, in order to assist an adversely affected worker to complete training approved for the worker under section 236 that leads to the completion of a degree or industry-recognized credential, payments may be made as trade readjustment allowances for not more than 13 weeks within such period of eligibility as the Secretary may prescribe to account for a break in training or for justifiable cause that follows the last week for which the worker is otherwise entitled to a trade readjustment allowance under this chapter if—

“(1) payment of the trade readjustment allowance for not more than 13 weeks is necessary for the worker to complete the training;

“(2) the worker participates in training in each such week; and

“(3) the worker—

“(A) has substantially met the performance benchmarks established as part of the training approved for the worker;

“(B) is expected to continue to make progress toward the completion of the training; and

“(C) will complete the training during that period of eligibility.”;

(3) section 245(a) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting “June 30, 2022” for “December 31, 2007”;

(4) section 246(b)(1) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting “June 30, 2022” for “the date that is 5 years” and all that follows through “State”;

(5) section 256(b) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting “the 1-year period beginning on July 1, 2021” for “each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007, and \$4,000,000 for the 3-month period beginning on October 1, 2007”;

(6) section 298(a) of that Act shall be applied and administered by substituting “the 1-year

period beginning on July 1, 2021” for “each of the fiscal years” and all that follows through “October 1, 2007”; and

(7) section 285 of that Act shall be applied and administered—

(A) in subsection (a), by substituting “June 30, 2022” for “December 31, 2007” each place it appears; and

(B) by applying and administering subsection (b) as if it read as follows:

“(b) **OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **ASSISTANCE FOR FIRMS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), assistance may not be provided under chapter 3 after June 30, 2022.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any assistance approved under chapter 3 pursuant to a petition filed under section 251 on or before June 30, 2022, may be provided—

“(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

“(ii) to the extent the recipient of the assistance is otherwise eligible to receive such assistance.”

“(2) **FARMERS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), assistance may not be provided under chapter 6 after June 30, 2022.

“(B) **EXCEPTION.**—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), any assistance approved under chapter 6 on or before June 30, 2022, may be provided—

“(i) to the extent funds are available pursuant to such chapter for such purpose; and

“(ii) to the extent the recipient of the assistance is otherwise eligible to receive such assistance.”

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The provisions of chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6 of title II of the Trade Act of 1974, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall continue to apply on and after July 1, 2021, with respect to—

(1) workers certified as eligible for trade adjustment assistance benefits under chapter 2 of title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 221 of that Act before July 1, 2021;

(2) firms certified as eligible for technical assistance or grants under chapter 3 of title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 251 of that Act before July 1, 2021; and

(3) agricultural commodity producers certified as eligible for technical or financial assistance under chapter 6 of title II of that Act pursuant to petitions filed under section 292 of that Act before July 1, 2021.

SEC. 207. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF HEALTH COVERAGE TAX CREDIT.

(a) **EXTENSION.**—Subparagraph (B) of section 35(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “before January 1, 2014” and inserting “before January 1, 2020”.

(b) **COORDINATION WITH CREDIT FOR COVERAGE UNDER A QUALIFIED HEALTH PLAN.**—Subsection (g) of section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (13), and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraphs:

“(11) **ELECTION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—This section shall not apply to any taxpayer for any eligible coverage month unless such taxpayer elects the application of this section for such month.

“(B) **TIMING AND APPLICABILITY OF ELECTION.**—Except as the Secretary may provide—

“(i) an election to have this section apply for any eligible coverage month in a taxable year shall be made not later than the due date (including extensions) for the return of tax for the taxable year, and

“(ii) any election for this section to apply for an eligible coverage month shall apply for all subsequent eligible coverage months in the taxable year and, once made, shall be irrevocable with respect to such months.

“(12) **COORDINATION WITH PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.**—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible coverage month to which the election under paragraph (11) applies shall not be treated as a coverage month (as defined in section 36B(c)(2)) for purposes of section 36B with respect to the taxpayer.”

“(B) COORDINATION WITH ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.—In the case of a taxpayer who makes the election under paragraph (11) with respect to any eligible coverage month in a taxable year or on behalf of whom any advance payment is made under section 7527 with respect to any month in such taxable year—

“(i) the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year shall be increased by the excess, if any, of—

“(I) the sum of any advance payments made on behalf of the taxpayer under section 1412 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and section 7527 for months during such taxable year, over

“(II) the sum of the credits allowed under this section (determined without regard to paragraph (1)) and section 36B (determined without regard to subsection (f)(1) thereof) for such taxable year, and

“(ii) section 36B(f)(2) shall not apply with respect to such taxpayer for such taxable year, except that if such taxpayer received any advance payments under section 7527 for any month in such taxable year and is later allowed a credit under section 36B for such taxable year, then section 36B(f)(2)(B) shall be applied by substituting the amount determined under clause (i) for the amount determined under section 36B(f)(2)(A).”

(c) EXTENSION OF ADVANCE PAYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 7527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “August 1, 2003” and inserting “the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 7527(e) of such Code is amended by striking “occurring” and all that follows and inserting “occurring—

“(A) after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015, and

“(B) prior to the first month for which an advance payment is made on behalf of such individual under subsection (a).”

(d) INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE TREATED AS QUALIFIED HEALTH INSURANCE WITHOUT REGARD TO ENROLLMENT DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (J) of section 35(e)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “insurance if the eligible individual” and all that follows through “For purposes of” and inserting “insurance. For purposes of”.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Subparagraph (J) of section 35(e)(1) of such Code, as amended by paragraph (1), is amended by striking “insurance.” and inserting “insurance (other than coverage enrolled in through an Exchange established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act).”

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (m) of section 6501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting “, 35(g)(11)” after “30D(e)(4)”.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to coverage months in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013.

(2) PLANS AVAILABLE ON INDIVIDUAL MARKET FOR USE OF TAX CREDIT.—The amendment made by subsection (d)(2) shall apply to coverage months in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

(3) TRANSITION RULE.—Notwithstanding section 35(g)(11)(B)(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as added by this title), an election to apply section 35 of such Code to an eligible coverage month (as defined in section 35(b) of such

Code) (and not to claim the credit under section 36B of such Code with respect to such month) in a taxable year beginning after December 31, 2013, and before the date of the enactment of this Act—

(A) may be made at any time on or after such date of enactment and before the expiration of the 3-year period of limitation prescribed in section 6511(a) with respect to such taxable year; and

(B) may be made on an amended return.

(g) AGENCY OUTREACH.—As soon as possible after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of the Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor (or such Secretaries’ delegates) and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (or the Director’s delegate) shall carry out programs of public outreach, including on the Internet, to inform potential eligible individuals (as defined in section 35(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of the extension of the credit under section 35 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the availability of the election to claim such credit retroactively for coverage months beginning after December 31, 2013.

SEC. 208. CUSTOMS USER FEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 13031(j)(3) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(j)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “September 30, 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2025”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) Fees may be charged under paragraphs (9) and (10) of subsection (a) during the period beginning on July 29, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025.”

(b) RATE FOR MERCHANDISE PROCESSING FEES.—Section 503 of the United States–Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 112–41; 125 Stat. 460) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FURTHER ADDITIONAL PERIOD.—For the period beginning on July 15, 2025, and ending on September 30, 2025, section 13031(a)(9) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(9)) shall be applied and administered—

“(1) in subparagraph (A), by substituting ‘0.3464’ for ‘0.21’; and

“(2) in subparagraph (B)(i), by substituting ‘0.3464’ for ‘0.21’.”

SEC. 209. CHILD TAX CREDIT NOT REFUNDABLE FOR TAXPAYERS ELECTING TO EXCLUDE FOREIGN EARNED INCOME FROM TAX.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 24(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) EXCEPTION FOR TAXPAYERS EXCLUDING FOREIGN EARNED INCOME.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any taxable year if such taxpayer elects to exclude any amount from gross income under section 911 for such taxable year.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2014.

SEC. 210. TIME FOR PAYMENT OF CORPORATE ESTIMATED TAXES.

Notwithstanding section 6655 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, in the case of a corporation with assets of not less than \$1,000,000,000 (determined as of the end of the preceding taxable year)—

(1) the amount of any required installment of corporate estimated tax which is otherwise due in July, August, or September of 2020 shall be increased by 2.75 percent of such amount (determined without regard to any increase in such amount not contained in such Code); and

(2) the amount of the next required installment after an installment referred to in paragraph (1) shall be appropriately reduced to reflect the amount of the increase by reason of such paragraph.

SEC. 211. COVERAGE AND PAYMENT FOR RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.

(a) COVERAGE.—Section 1861(s)(2)(F) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)(F)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including such renal dialysis services furnished on or after January 1, 2017, by a renal dialysis facility or provider of services paid under section 1881(b)(14) to an individual with acute kidney injury (as defined in section 1834(r)(2)).”

(b) PAYMENT.—Section 1834 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(r) PAYMENT FOR RENAL DIALYSIS SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY.—

“(1) PAYMENT RATE.—In the case of renal dialysis services (as defined in subparagraph (B) of section 1881(b)(14)) furnished under this part by a renal dialysis facility or provider of services paid under such section during a year (beginning with 2017) to an individual with acute kidney injury (as defined in paragraph (2)), the amount of payment under this part for such services shall be the base rate for renal dialysis services determined for such year under such section, as adjusted by any applicable geographic adjustment factor applied under subparagraph (D)(iv)(II) of such section and may be adjusted by the Secretary (on a budget neutral basis for payments under this paragraph) by any other adjustment factor under subparagraph (D) of such section.

“(2) INDIVIDUAL WITH ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘individual with acute kidney injury’ means an individual who has acute loss of renal function and does not receive renal dialysis services for which payment is made under section 1881(b)(14).”

SEC. 212. MODIFICATION OF THE MEDICARE SEQUESTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

Section 251A(6)(D)(ii) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)(D)(ii)) is amended by striking “0.0 percent” and inserting “0.25 percent”.

MOTION OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF KENTUCKY

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the motion.

The text of the motion is as follows:

Mr. Rogers of Kentucky moves that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314 with the amendment printed in part A of House Report 114–315 modified by the amendment printed in part B of that report.

The text of the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the text is as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 101. Amendments to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Sec. 102. Authority for fiscal year 2017 budget resolution in the Senate.

TITLE II—AGRICULTURE

Sec. 201. Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

TITLE III—COMMERCE

Sec. 301. Debt collection improvements.

TITLE IV—STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Sec. 401. Strategic Petroleum Reserve test drawdown and sale notification and definition change.

- Sec. 402. Strategic Petroleum Reserve mission readiness optimization.
- Sec. 403. Strategic Petroleum Reserve drawdown and sale.
- Sec. 404. Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund.

TITLE V—PENSIONS

- Sec. 501. Single employer plan annual premium rates.
- Sec. 502. Pension Payment Acceleration.
- Sec. 503. Mortality tables.
- Sec. 504. Extension of current funding stabilization percentages to 2018, 2019, and 2020.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 601. Maintaining 2016 Medicare part B premium and deductible levels consistent with actuarially fair rates.
- Sec. 602. Applying the Medicaid additional rebate requirement to generic drugs.
- Sec. 603. Treatment of off-campus outpatient departments of a provider.
- Sec. 604. Repeal of automatic enrollment requirement.

TITLE VII—JUDICIARY

- Sec. 701. Civil monetary penalty inflation adjustments.
- Sec. 702. Crime Victims Fund.
- Sec. 703. Assets Forfeiture Fund.

TITLE VIII—SOCIAL SECURITY

- Sec. 801. Short title.
- Subtitle A—Ensuring Correct Payments and Reducing Fraud
- Sec. 811. Expansion of cooperative disability investigations units.
- Sec. 812. Exclusion of certain medical sources of evidence.
- Sec. 813. New and stronger penalties.
- Sec. 814. References to Social Security and Medicare in electronic communications.
- Sec. 815. Change to cap adjustment authority.
- Subtitle B—Promoting Opportunity for Disability Beneficiaries
- Sec. 821. Temporary reauthorization of disability insurance demonstration project authority.
- Sec. 822. Modification of demonstration project authority.
- Sec. 823. Promoting opportunity demonstration project.
- Sec. 824. Use of electronic payroll data to improve program administration.
- Sec. 825. Treatment of earnings derived from services.
- Sec. 826. Electronic reporting of earnings.
- Subtitle C—Protecting Social Security Benefits
- Sec. 831. Closure of unintended loopholes.
- Sec. 832. Requirement for medical review.
- Sec. 833. Reallocation of payroll tax revenue.
- Sec. 834. Access to financial information for waivers and adjustments of recovery.

Subtitle D—Relieving Administrative Burdens and Miscellaneous Provisions

- Sec. 841. Interagency coordination to improve program administration.
- Sec. 842. Elimination of quinquennial determinations relating to wage credits for military service prior to 1957.
- Sec. 843. Certification of benefits payable to a divorced spouse of a railroad worker to the Railroad Retirement Board.
- Sec. 844. Technical amendments to eliminate obsolete provisions.

- Sec. 845. Reporting requirements to Congress.
- Sec. 846. Expedited examination of administrative law judges.

TITLE IX—TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

- Sec. 901. Temporary extension of public debt limit.
- Sec. 902. Restoring congressional authority over the national debt.

TITLE X—SPECTRUM PIPELINE

- Sec. 1001. Short title.
- Sec. 1002. Definitions.
- Sec. 1003. Rule of construction.
- Sec. 1004. Identification, reallocation, and auction of Federal spectrum.
- Sec. 1005. Additional uses of Spectrum Relocation Fund.
- Sec. 1006. Plans for auction of certain spectrum.
- Sec. 1007. FCC auction authority.
- Sec. 1008. Reports to Congress.

TITLE XI—REVENUE PROVISIONS RELATED TO TAX COMPLIANCE

- Sec. 1101. Partnership audits and adjustments.
- Sec. 1102. Partnership interests created by gift.

TITLE XII—DESIGNATION OF SMALL HOUSE ROTUNDA

- Sec. 1201. Designating small House rotunda as “Freedom Foyer”.

TITLE I—BUDGET ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 101. AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.

(a) REVISED DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—Section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) and inserting the following:

“(3) for fiscal year 2016—

“(A) for the revised security category, \$548,091,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the revised nonsecurity category \$518,491,000,000 in new budget authority;

“(4) for fiscal year 2017—

“(A) for the revised security category, \$551,068,000,000 in new budget authority; and

“(B) for the revised nonsecurity category, \$518,531,000,000 in new budget authority.”.

(b) DIRECT SPENDING ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017.—Section 251A of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “paragraph (10)” and inserting “paragraphs (10) and (11)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) IMPLEMENTING DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 AND 2017.—(A) OMB shall make the calculations necessary to implement the direct spending reductions calculated pursuant to paragraphs (3) and (4) without regard to the amendment made to section 251(c) revising the discretionary spending limits for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015.

“(B) Paragraph (5)(B) shall not be implemented for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.”.

(c) EXTENSION OF DIRECT SPENDING REDUCTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025.—Section 251A(6) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901a(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “and for fiscal year 2024” and by inserting “for fiscal year 2024, and for fiscal year 2025”;

(2) by striking subparagraph (C) and redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (C); and

(3) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated), by striking “fiscal year 2024” and inserting “fiscal year 2025”.

(d) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS AMOUNTS.—In fiscal years 2016 and 2017, the adjustments under section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)) for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism appropriations will be as follows:

(1) For budget function 150—

(A) for fiscal year 2016, \$14,895,000,000; and

(B) for fiscal year 2017, \$14,895,000,000.

(2) For budget function 050—

(A) for fiscal year 2016, \$58,798,000,000; and

(B) for fiscal year 2017, \$58,798,000,000.

This subsection shall not affect the applicability of section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 102. AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.

(a) FISCAL YEAR 2017.—For the purpose of enforcing the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, after April 15, 2016, and enforcing budgetary points of order in prior concurrent resolutions on the budget, the allocations, aggregates, and levels provided for in subsection (b) shall apply in the Senate in the same manner as for a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 with appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2018 through 2026.

(b) COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS, AGGREGATES, AND LEVELS.—After April 15, 2016, but not later than May 15, 2016, the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate shall file—

(1) for the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal year 2017 consistent with discretionary spending limits set forth in section 251(c)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by this Act, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(2) for all committees other than the Committee on Appropriations, committee allocations for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(3) aggregate spending levels for fiscal year 2017 in accordance with the allocations established under paragraphs (1) and (2), for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

(4) aggregate revenue levels for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(5) levels of Social Security revenues and outlays for fiscal years 2017, 2017 through 2021, and 2017 through 2026 consistent with the most recent baseline of the Congressional Budget Office, as adjusted for the budgetary effects of any provision of law enacted during the period beginning on the date such baseline is issued and ending on the date of submission of such statement, for the purpose of enforcing sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(c) ADDITIONAL MATTER.—The filing referred to in subsection (b) may also include for fiscal year 2017 the matter contained in subtitles A and B of title IV of S. Con. Res. 11 (114th Congress) updated by 1 fiscal year.

(d) EXPIRATION.—This section shall expire if a concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2017 is agreed to by the Senate and the House of Representatives pursuant to section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

TITLE II—AGRICULTURE

SEC. 201. STANDARD REINSURANCE AGREEMENT.

Section 508(k)(8) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(k)(8)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “may renegotiate” and all that follows through the end of clause (ii) and inserting the following: “shall renegotiate the financial terms and conditions of each Standard Reinsurance Agreement—

“(i) not later than December 31, 2016; and

“(ii) not less than once during each period of 5 reinsurance years thereafter.”; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

“(E) CAP ON OVERALL RATE OF RETURN.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (F), the Board shall ensure that the Standard Reinsurance Agreement renegotiated under subparagraph (A)(i) establishes a target rate of return for the approved insurance providers, taken as a whole, that does not exceed 8.9 percent of retained premium for each of the 2017 through 2026 reinsurance years.”.

TITLE III—COMMERCE

SEC. 301. DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by inserting “, unless such call is made solely to collect a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States” after “charged for the call”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, is made solely pursuant to the collection of a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States,” after “purposes”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) may restrict or limit the number and duration of calls made to a telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service to collect a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States.”.

(b) DEADLINE FOR REGULATIONS.—Not later than 9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall prescribe regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

TITLE IV—STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

SEC. 401. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE TEST DRAWDOWN AND SALE NOTIFICATION AND DEFINITION CHANGE.

(a) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Section 161(g) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(g)) is amended by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

“(8) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—

“(A) PRIOR NOTICE.—Not less than 14 days before the date on which a test is carried out under this subsection, the Secretary shall notify both Houses of Congress of the test.

“(B) EMERGENCY.—The prior notice requirement in subparagraph (A) shall not apply if the Secretary determines that an emergency exists which requires a test to be carried out, in which case the Secretary shall notify both Houses of Congress of the test as soon as possible.

“(C) DETAILED DESCRIPTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a test is completed

under this subsection, the Secretary shall submit to both Houses of Congress a detailed description of the test.

“(ii) REPORT.—A detailed description submitted under clause (i) may be included as part of a report made to the President and Congress under section 165.”.

(b) DEFINITION CHANGE.—Section 3(8)(C)(iii) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6202(8)(C)(iii)) is amended by striking “sabotage or an act of God” and inserting “sabotage, an act of terrorism, or an act of God”.

SEC. 402. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE MISSION READINESS OPTIMIZATION.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete a long-range strategic review of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; and

(2) develop and submit to Congress a proposed action plan, including a proposed implementation schedule, that—

(A) specifies near- and long-term roles of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve relative to the energy and economic security goals and objectives of the United States;

(B) describes whether existing legal authorities that govern the policies, configuration, and capabilities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve are adequate to ensure that the Strategic Petroleum Reserve can meet the current and future energy and economic security goals and objectives of the United States;

(C) identifies the configuration and performance capabilities of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and recommends an action plan to achieve the optimal—

(i) capacity, location, and composition of petroleum products in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve; and

(ii) storage and distributional capabilities; and

(D) estimates the resources required to attain and maintain the long-term sustainability and operational effectiveness of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

SEC. 403. STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE DRAWDOWN AND SALE.

(a) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell—

(1) 5,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2018;

(2) 5,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2019;

(3) 5,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2020;

(4) 5,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2021;

(5) 8,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2022;

(6) 10,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2023;

(7) 10,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2024; and

(8) 10,000,000 barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2025.

(b) EMERGENCY PROTECTION.—The Secretary shall not draw down and sell crude oil under this section in amounts that would limit the authority to sell petroleum products under section 161(h) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(h)) in the full amount authorized by that subsection.

(c) PROCEEDS.—Proceeds from a sale under this section shall be deposited into the gen-

eral fund of the Treasury during the fiscal year in which the sale occurs.

SEC. 404. ENERGY SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNIZATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund (referred to in this section as the “Fund”), consisting of—

(1) collections deposited in the Fund under subsection (c); and

(2) amounts otherwise appropriated to the Fund.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Fund is to provide for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities.

(c) COLLECTION AND DEPOSIT OF SALE PROCEEDS IN FUND.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE.—Notwithstanding section 161 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241), to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in amounts as authorized under subsection (e), except as provided in paragraph (2). Amounts received for a sale under this paragraph shall be deposited into the Fund during the fiscal year in which the sale occurs. Such amounts shall remain available in the Fund without fiscal year limitation.

(2) EMERGENCY PROTECTION.—The Secretary shall not draw down and sell crude oil under this subsection in amounts that would limit the authority to sell petroleum products under section 161(h) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(h)) in the full amount authorized by that subsection.

(d) AUTHORIZED USES OF FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts in the Fund may be used for, or may be credited as offsetting collections for amounts used for, carrying out the program described in paragraph (2)(B), to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts.

(2) PROGRAM TO MODERNIZE THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE.—

(A) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(i) The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is one of the Nation’s most valuable energy security assets.

(ii) The age and condition of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve have diminished its value as a Federal energy security asset.

(iii) Global oil markets and the location and amount of United States oil production and refining capacity have dramatically changed in the 40 years since the establishment of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

(iv) Maximizing the energy security value of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve requires a modernized infrastructure that meets the drawdown and distribution needs of changed domestic and international oil and refining market conditions.

(B) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Energy shall establish a Strategic Petroleum Reserve modernization program to protect the United States economy from the impacts of emergency product supply disruptions. The program may include—

(i) operational improvements to extend the useful life of surface and subsurface infrastructure;

(ii) maintenance of cavern storage integrity; and

(iii) addition of infrastructure and facilities to optimize the drawdown and incremental distribution capacity of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated (and drawdowns and sales under subsection (c) in an equal amount are authorized) for carrying out subsection (d)(2)(B), \$2,000,000,000 for the

period encompassing fiscal years 2017 through 2020.

(f) TRANSMISSION OF DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUESTS.—The Secretary of Energy shall prepare and submit in the Department's annual budget request to Congress—

(1) an itemization of the amounts of funds necessary to carry out subsection (d); and

(2) a designation of any activities thereunder for which a multiyear budget authority would be appropriate.

(g) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to draw down and sell crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under this section shall expire at the end of fiscal year 2020.

TITLE V—PENSIONS

SEC. 501. SINGLE EMPLOYER PLAN ANNUAL PREMIUM RATES.

(a) FLAT-RATE PREMIUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4006(a)(3)(A)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subclause (IV), by striking the period at the end of subclause (V) and inserting a semicolon, and by inserting after subclause (V) the following:

“(VI) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2016, and before January 1, 2018, \$69;

“(VII) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2017, and before January 1, 2019, \$74; and

“(VIII) for plan years beginning after December 31, 2018, \$80.”.

(2) PREMIUM RATES AFTER 2019.—Section 4006(a)(3)(G) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(3)(G)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “2016” and inserting “2019”; and

(B) in clause (i)(II) by striking “2014” and inserting “2017”.

(b) VARIABLE-RATE PREMIUM INCREASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 4006(a)(8)(C) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(8)(C)) is amended—

(A) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “increase in 2014 and 2015” and inserting “increases”;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in clause (iii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) in the case of plan years beginning in calendar year 2017, by \$3;

“(v) in the case of plan years beginning in calendar year 2018, by \$4; and

“(vi) in the case of plan years beginning in calendar year 2019, by \$4.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 4006(a)(8) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1306(a)(8)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) for plan years beginning after calendar year 2017, the amount in effect for plan years beginning in 2017 (determined after application of subparagraph (C));

“(vi) for plan years beginning after calendar year 2018, the amount in effect for plan years beginning in 2018 (determined after application of subparagraph (C)); and

“(vii) for plan years beginning after calendar year 2019, the amount in effect for plan years beginning in 2019 (determined after application of subparagraph (C)).”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D)—

(i) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) 2015, in the case of plan years beginning after calendar year 2017;

“(vi) 2016, in the case of plan years beginning after calendar year 2018; and

“(vii) 2017, in the case of plan years beginning after calendar year 2019.”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2016.

SEC. 502. PENSION PAYMENT ACCELERATION.

Notwithstanding section 4007(a) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1307(a)) and section 4007.11 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, for plan years commencing after December 31, 2024, and before January 1, 2026, the premium due date for such plan years shall be the fifteenth day of the ninth calendar month that begins on or after the first day of the premium payment year.

SEC. 503. MORTALITY TABLES.

(a) CREDIBILITY.—For purposes of subclause (I) of section 430(h)(3)(C)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and subclause (I) of section 303(h)(3)(C)(iii) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, the determination of whether plans have credible information shall be made in accordance with established actuarial credibility theory, which—

(1) is materially different from rules under such section of such Code, including Revenue Procedure 2007-37, that are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) permits the use of tables that reflect adjustments to the tables described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 430(h)(3) of such Code, and subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 303(h)(3) of such Act, if such adjustments are based on the experience described in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(3)(C)(iii) of such Code and in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(3)(C)(iii) of such Act.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

SEC. 504. EXTENSION OF CURRENT FUNDING STABILIZATION PERCENTAGES TO 2018, 2019 AND 2020.

(a) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—The table in subclause (II) of section 430(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.	90%	110%
2021	85%	115%
2022	80%	120%
2023	75%	125%
After 2023	70%	130%”.

(b) FUNDING STABILIZATION UNDER EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The table in subclause (II) of section 303(h)(2)(C)(iv) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29

U.S.C. 1083(h)(2)(C)(iv)) is amended to read as follows:

“If the calendar year is:	The applicable minimum percentage is:	The applicable maximum percentage is:
2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, or 2020.	90%	110%
2021	85%	115%
2022	80%	120%
2023	75%	125%
After 2023	70%	130%”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(f)(2)(D) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1021(f)(2)(D)) is amended—

(i) in clause (i) by striking “and the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014” both places it appears and inserting “, the Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014, and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015”, “and

(ii) in clause (ii) by striking “2020” and inserting “2023”.

(B) STATEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor shall modify the statements required under

subclauses (I) and (II) of section 101(f)(2)(D)(i) of such Act to conform to the amendments made by this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to plan years beginning after December 31, 2015.

TITLE VI—HEALTH CARE

SEC. 601. MAINTAINING 2016 MEDICARE PART B PREMIUM AND DEDUCTIBLE LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH ACTUARIALLY FAIR RATES.

(a) 2016 PREMIUM AND DEDUCTIBLE AND REPAYMENT THROUGH FUTURE PREMIUMS.—Section 1839(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(a)) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of paragraph (1), by striking “Such” and inserting “Subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), such”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5)(A) In applying this part (including subsection (i) and section 1833(b)), the monthly actuarial rate for enrollees age 65 and over for 2016 shall be determined as if subsection (f) did not apply.

“(B) Subsection (f) shall continue to be applied to paragraph (6)(A) (during a repayment month, as described in paragraph (6)(B)) and without regard to the application of subparagraph (A).

“(6)(A) With respect to a repayment month (as described in subparagraph (B)), the monthly premium otherwise established under paragraph (3) shall be increased by, subject to subparagraph (D), \$3.

“(B) For purposes of this paragraph, a repayment month is a month during a year, beginning with 2016, for which a balance due amount is computed under subparagraph (C) as greater than zero.

“(C) For purposes of this paragraph, the balance due amount computed under this subparagraph, with respect to a month, is the amount estimated by the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to be equal to—

“(i) the amount transferred under section 1844(d)(1); plus

“(ii) the amount that is equal to the aggregate reduction, for all individuals enrolled under this part, in the income related monthly adjustment amount as a result of the application of paragraph (5); minus

“(iii) the amounts payable under this part as a result of the application of this paragraph for preceding months.

“(D) If the balance due amount computed under subparagraph (C), without regard to this subparagraph, for December of a year would be less than zero, the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shall estimate, and the Secretary shall apply, a reduction to the dollar amount increase applied under subparagraph (A) for each month during such year in a manner such that the balance due amount for January of the subsequent year is equal to zero.”.

(b) TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION.—Section 1844 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“In applying paragraph (1), the amounts transferred under subsection (d)(1) with respect to enrollees described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such subsection shall be treated as premiums payable and deposited in the Trust Fund under subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, of paragraph (1).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(d)(1) For 2016, there shall be transferred from the General Fund to the Trust Fund an amount, as estimated by the Chief Actuary of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, equal to the reduction in aggregate premiums payable under this part for a month in such year (excluding any changes in amounts collected under section 1839(i)) that is attributable to the application of section 1839(a)(5)(A) with respect to—

“(A) enrollees age 65 and over; and

“(B) enrollees under age 65.

Such amounts shall be transferred from time to time as appropriate.

“(2) Premium increases affected under section 1839(a)(6) shall not be taken into account in applying subsection (a).

“(3) There shall be transferred from the Trust Fund to the General Fund of the Treasury amounts equivalent to the additional premiums payable as a result of the application of section 1839(a)(6), excluding the aggregate payments attributable to the application of section 1839(i)(3)(A)(ii)(II).”.

(c) CONFORMING APPLICATION OF HIGH INCOME ADJUSTMENTS TO INCREASED MONTHLY PREMIUM IN SAME MANNER AS FOR REGULAR MEDICARE PREMIUMS.—Section

1839(i)(3)(A)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(i)(3)(A)(ii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “AMOUNT-200 percent” and inserting the following: “AMOUNT-”

“(I) 200 percent”; and

(2) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; plus”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(II) 4 times the amount of the increase in the monthly premium under subsection (a)(6) for a month in the year.”.

(d) CONDITIONAL APPLICATION TO 2017 IF NO SOCIAL SECURITY COLA FOR 2017.—If there is no increase in the monthly insurance benefits payable under title II with respect to December 2016 pursuant to section 215(i), then the amendments made by this section shall be applied as if—

(1) the reference to “2016” in paragraph (5)(A) of section 1839(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(a)), as added by subsection (a)(2), was a reference to “2016 and 2017”; and

(2) the reference to “a month during a year, beginning with 2016” in paragraph (6)(B) of section 1839 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395r(a)), as added by subsection (a)(2), was a reference to “a month in a year, beginning with 2016 and beginning with 2017, respectively”; and

(3) the reference to “2016” in subsection (d)(1) of section 1844 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w), as added by subsection (b)(2), was a reference to “each of 2016 and 2017”.

Any increase in premiums effected under this subsection shall be in addition to the increase effected by the amendments made by subsection (a).

(e) CONSTRUCTION REGARDING NO AUTHORITY TO INITIATE APPLICATION TO YEARS AFTER 2017.—Nothing in subsection (d) or the amendments made by this section shall be construed as authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to initiate application of such subsection or amendments for a year after 2017.

SEC. 602. APPLYING THE MEDICAID ADDITIONAL REBATE REQUIREMENT TO GENERIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1927(c)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396r-8(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “The amount” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the amount”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) ADDITIONAL REBATE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount of the rebate specified in this paragraph for a rebate period, with respect to each dosage form and strength of a covered outpatient drug other than a single source drug or an innovator multiple source drug of a manufacturer, shall be increased in the manner that the rebate for a dosage form and strength of a single source drug or an innovator multiple source drug is increased under subparagraphs (A) and (D) of paragraph (2), except as provided in clause (ii).

“(ii) SPECIAL RULES FOR APPLICATION OF PROVISION.—In applying subparagraphs (A) and (D) of paragraph (2) under clause (i)—

“(I) the reference in subparagraph (A)(i) of such paragraph to ‘1990’ shall be deemed a reference to ‘2014’;

“(II) subject to clause (iii), the reference in subparagraph (A)(ii) of such paragraph to ‘the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 1990’ shall be deemed a reference to ‘the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 2014’; and

“(III) subject to clause (iii), the reference in subparagraph (A)(ii) of such paragraph to ‘September 1990’ shall be deemed a reference to ‘September 2014’;

“(IV) the references in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph to ‘paragraph (1)(A)(ii)’, ‘this

paragraph’, and ‘December 31, 2009’ shall be deemed references to ‘subparagraph (A)’, ‘this subparagraph’, and ‘December 31, 2014’, respectively; and

“(V) any reference in such paragraph to a ‘single source drug or an innovator multiple source drug’ shall be deemed to be a reference to a drug to which clause (i) applies.

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN NONINNOVATOR MULTIPLE SOURCE DRUGS.—In applying paragraph (2)(A)(ii)(II) under clause (i) with respect to a covered outpatient drug that is first marketed as a drug other than a single source drug or an innovator multiple source drug after April 1, 2013, such paragraph shall be applied—

“(I) by substituting ‘the applicable quarter’ for ‘the calendar quarter beginning July 1, 1990’; and

“(II) by substituting ‘the last month in such applicable quarter’ for ‘September 1990’.

“(iv) APPLICABLE QUARTER DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘applicable quarter’ means, with respect to a drug described in clause (iii), the fifth full calendar quarter after which the drug is marketed as a drug other than a single source drug or an innovator multiple source drug.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to rebate periods beginning after the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 603. TREATMENT OF OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENTS OF A PROVIDER.

Section 1833(t) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395l(t)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B)—

(A) in clause (iii), by striking “but” at the end;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(v) does not include applicable items and services (as defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (21)) that are furnished on or after January 1, 2017, by an off-campus outpatient department of a provider (as defined in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph).”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(21) SERVICES FURNISHED BY AN OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER.—

“(A) APPLICABLE ITEMS AND SERVICES.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(v) and this paragraph, the term ‘applicable items and services’ means items and services other than items emergency department (as defined in section 489.24(b) of title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations).

“(B) OFF-CAMPUS OUTPATIENT DEPARTMENT OF A PROVIDER.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(v) and this paragraph, subject to clause (ii), the term ‘off-campus outpatient department of a provider’ means a department of a provider (as defined in section 413.65(a)(2) of title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph) that is not located—

“(I) on the campus (as defined in such section 413.65(a)(2)) of such provider; or

“(II) within the distance (described in such definition of campus) from a remote location of a hospital facility (as defined in such section 413.65(a)(2)).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(B)(v) and this paragraph, the term ‘off-campus outpatient department of a provider’ shall not include a department of a provider (as so defined) that was billing under this subsection with respect to covered OPD services furnished prior to the date of the enactment of this paragraph.

“(C) AVAILABILITY OF PAYMENT UNDER OTHER PAYMENT SYSTEMS.—Payments for applicable items and services furnished by an off-campus outpatient department of a provider that are described in paragraph (1)(B)(v) shall be made under the applicable payment system under this part (other than under this subsection) if the requirements for such payment are otherwise met.

“(D) INFORMATION NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.—Each hospital shall provide to the Secretary such information as the Secretary determines appropriate to implement this paragraph and paragraph (1)(B)(v) (which may include reporting of information on a hospital claim using a code or modifier and reporting information about off-campus outpatient departments of a provider on the enrollment form described in section 1866(j)).

“(E) LIMITATIONS.—There shall be no administrative or judicial review under section 1869, section 1878, or otherwise of the following:

“(i) The determination of the applicable items and services under subparagraph (A) and applicable payment systems under subparagraph (C).

“(ii) The determination of whether a department of a provider meets the term described in subparagraph (B).

“(iii) Any information that hospitals are required to report pursuant to subparagraph (D).”.

SEC. 604. REPEAL OF AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT.

The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by repealing section 18A (as added by section 1511 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148)).

TITLE VII—JUDICIARY

SEC. 701. CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015”.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) is amended—

(1) in section 4—

(A) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 1, 2016, and not later than January 15 of every year thereafter, and subject to subsections (c) and (d), the head of each agency shall—”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “by regulation adjust” and inserting “in accordance with subsection (b), adjust”;

(ii) by striking “, the Tariff Act of 1930, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, or the Social Security Act” and inserting “or the Tariff Act of 1930”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking “such regulation” and inserting “such adjustment”;

and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) PROCEDURES FOR ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(1) CATCH UP ADJUSTMENT.—For the first adjustment made under subsection (a) after the date of enactment of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015—

“(A) the head of an agency shall adjust civil monetary penalties through an interim final rulemaking; and

“(B) the adjustment shall take effect not later than August 1, 2016.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT ADJUSTMENTS.—For the second adjustment made under subsection (a) after the date of enactment of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, and each adjustment thereafter, the head of an agency

shall adjust civil monetary penalties and shall make the adjustment notwithstanding section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

“(c) EXCEPTION.—For the first adjustment made under subsection (a) after the date of enactment of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, the head of an agency may adjust the amount of a civil monetary penalty by less than the otherwise required amount if—

“(1) the head of the agency, after publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking and providing an opportunity for comment, determines in a final rule that—

“(A) increasing the civil monetary penalty by the otherwise required amount will have a negative economic impact; or

“(B) the social costs of increasing the civil monetary penalty by the otherwise required amount outweigh the benefits; and

“(2) the Director of the Office of Management and Budget concurs with the determination of the head of the agency under paragraph (1).

“(d) OTHER ADJUSTMENTS MADE.—If a civil monetary penalty subject to a cost-of-living adjustment under this Act is, during the 12 months preceding a required cost-of-living adjustment, increased by an amount greater than the amount of the adjustment required under subsection (a), the head of the agency is not required to make the cost-of-living adjustment for that civil monetary penalty in that year.”;

(2) in section 5—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “to the nearest—” and all that follows through the end of subsection (a) and inserting “to the nearest multiple of \$1.”; and

(B) by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

“(b) DEFINITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘cost-of-living adjustment’ means the percentage (if any) for each civil monetary penalty by which—

“(A) the Consumer Price Index for the month of October preceding the date of the adjustment, exceeds

“(B) the Consumer Price Index for the month of October 1 year before the month of October referred to in subparagraph (A).

“(2) INITIAL ADJUSTMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (C), for the first inflation adjustment under section 4 made by an agency after the date of enactment of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, the term ‘cost-of-living adjustment’ means the percentage (if any) for each civil monetary penalty by which the Consumer Price Index for the month of October, 2015 exceeds the Consumer Price Index for the month of October of the calendar year during which the amount of such civil monetary penalty was established or adjusted under a provision of law other than this Act.

“(B) APPLICATION OF ADJUSTMENT.—The cost-of-living adjustment described in subparagraph (A) shall be applied to the amount of the civil monetary penalty as it was most recently established or adjusted under a provision of law other than this Act.

“(C) MAXIMUM ADJUSTMENT.—The amount of the increase in a civil monetary penalty under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed 150 percent of the amount of that civil monetary penalty on the date of enactment of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.”;

(3) in section 6, by striking “violations which occur” and inserting “civil monetary penalties, including those whose associated violation predated such increase, which are assessed”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION AND OVERSIGHT ENHANCEMENTS.

“(a) OMB GUIDANCE.—Not later than February 29, 2016, not later than December 15, 2016, and December 15 of every year thereafter, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall issue guidance to agencies on implementing the inflation adjustments required under this Act.

“(b) AGENCY FINANCIAL REPORTS.—The head of each agency shall include in the Agency Financial Report submitted under OMB Circular A-136, or any successor thereto, information about the civil monetary penalties within the jurisdiction of the agency, including the adjustment of the civil monetary penalties by the head of the agency under this Act.

“(c) GAO REVIEW.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall annually submit to Congress a report assessing the compliance of agencies with the inflation adjustments required under this Act, which may be included as part of another report submitted to Congress.”.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 31001(s) of the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (28 U.S.C. 2461 note) is amended by striking paragraph (2).

SEC. 702. CRIME VICTIMS FUND.

There is hereby rescinded and permanently canceled \$1,500,000,000 of the funds deposited or available in the Crime Victims Fund created by section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601).

SEC. 703. ASSETS FORFEITURE FUND.

Of the amounts deposited in the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund, \$746,000,000 are hereby rescinded and permanently cancelled.

TITLE VIII—SOCIAL SECURITY

SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Social Security Benefit Protection and Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2015”.

Subtitle A—Ensuring Correct Payments and Reducing Fraud

SEC. 811. EXPANSION OF COOPERATIVE DISABILITY INVESTIGATIONS UNITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2022, the Commissioner of Social Security shall take any necessary actions, subject to the availability of appropriations, to ensure that cooperative disability investigations units have been established, in areas where there is cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, that would cover each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until the earlier of 2022 or the date on which nationwide coverage is achieved, the Commissioner of Social Security shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report describing a plan to implement the nationwide coverage described in subsection (a) and outlining areas where the Social Security Administration did not receive the cooperation of local law enforcement agencies.

SEC. 812. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MEDICAL SOURCES OF EVIDENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) In making any determination with respect to whether an individual is under a disability or continues to be under a disability, the Commissioner of Social Security may not consider (except for good cause as determined by the Commissioner) any evidence furnished by—

“(I) any individual or entity who has been convicted of a felony under section 208 or under section 1632;

“(II) any individual or entity who has been excluded from participation in any Federal health care program under section 1128; or

“(III) any person with respect to whom a civil money penalty or assessment has been imposed under section 1129 for the submission of false evidence.

“(ii) To the extent and at such times as is necessary for the effective implementation of clause (i) of this subparagraph—

“(I) the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall transmit to the Commissioner information relating to persons described in subclause (I) or (III) of clause (i);

“(II) the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall transmit to the Commissioner information relating to persons described in subclause (II) of clause (i); and”.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Social Security shall issue regulations to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to determinations of disability made on or after the earlier of—

(1) the effective date of the regulations issued by the Commissioner under subsection (b); or

(2) one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 813. NEW AND STRONGER PENALTIES.

(a) CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO TITLE II.—Section 208(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (7)(C), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (8), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

“(9) conspires to commit any offense described in any of paragraphs (1) through (4).”.

(2) AMENDMENT TO TITLE VIII.—Section 811(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1011(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the comma and adding “; or” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) conspires to commit any offense described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3).”.

(3) AMENDMENT TO TITLE XVI.—Section 1632(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383a(a)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

“(5) conspires to commit any offense described in any of paragraphs (1) through (3).”.

(b) INCREASED CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS VIOLATING POSITIONS OF TRUST.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO TITLE II.—Section 208(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, except that in the case of a person who receives a fee or other income for services performed in connection with any determination with respect to benefits under this title (including a claimant representative, translator, or current or former employee of the Social Security Administration), or who is a physician or other health

care provider who submits, or causes the submission of, medical or other evidence in connection with any such determination, such person shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both.”.

(2) AMENDMENT TO TITLE VIII.—Section 811(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1011(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, except that in the case of a person who receives a fee or other income for services performed in connection with any determination with respect to benefits under this title (including a claimant representative, translator, or current or former employee of the Social Security Administration), or who is a physician or other health care provider who submits, or causes the submission of, medical or other evidence in connection with any such determination, such person shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both.”.

(3) AMENDMENT TO TITLE XVI.—Section 1632(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383a(a)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, except that in the case of a person who receives a fee or other income for services performed in connection with any determination with respect to benefits under this title (including a claimant representative, translator, or current or former employee of the Social Security Administration), or who is a physician or other health care provider who submits, or causes the submission of, medical or other evidence in connection with any such determination, such person shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both.”.

(c) INCREASED CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS VIOLATING POSITIONS OF TRUST.—Section 1129(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320a-8(a)(1)) is amended, in the matter following subparagraph (C), by inserting after “withholding disclosure of such fact” the following: “, except that in the case of such a person who receives a fee or other income for services performed in connection with any such determination (including a claimant representative, translator, or current or former employee of the Social Security Administration) or who is a physician or other health care provider who submits, or causes the submission of, medical or other evidence in connection with any such determination, the amount of such penalty shall be not more than \$7,500”.

(d) NO BENEFITS PAYABLE TO INDIVIDUALS FOR WHOM A CIVIL MONETARY PENALTY IS IMPOSED FOR FRAUDULENTLY CONCEALING WORK ACTIVITY.—Section 222(c)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 422(c)(5)) is amended by inserting after “conviction by a Federal court” the following: “, or the imposition of a civil monetary penalty under section 1129.”.

SEC. 814. REFERENCES TO SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE IN ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1140(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-10(a)(1)) is amended by inserting “(including any Internet or other electronic communication)” after “or other communication”.

(b) EACH COMMUNICATION TREATED AS SEPARATE VIOLATION.—Section 1140(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-10(b)) is amended by inserting after the second sentence the following: “In the case of any items referred to in subsection (a)(1) consisting of Internet or other electronic communications, each dissemina-

tion, viewing, or accessing of such a communication which contains one or more words, letters, symbols, or emblems in violation of subsection (a) shall represent a separate violation”.

SEC. 815. CHANGE TO CAP ADJUSTMENT AUTHORITY.

Section 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in the matter before subclause (I), by striking “and for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act” and inserting “, for the cost associated with conducting redeterminations of eligibility under title XVI of the Social Security Act, for the cost of co-operative disability investigation units, and for the cost associated with the prosecution of fraud in the programs and operations of the Social Security Administration by Special Assistant United States Attorneys”;

(B) in subclause (VI), by striking “\$1,309,000,000” and inserting “\$1,546,000,000”;

(C) in subclause (VII), by striking “\$1,309,000,000” and inserting “\$1,462,000,000”;

(D) in subclause (VIII), by striking “\$1,309,000,000” and inserting “\$1,410,000,000”; and

(E) in subclause (X), by striking “\$1,309,000,000” and inserting “\$1,302,000,000”;

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by inserting “, including work-related continuing disability reviews to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual’s ability to engage in substantial gainful activity” before the semicolon; and

(3) in clause (ii)(III), by striking “and redeterminations” and inserting “, redeterminations, co-operative disability investigation units, and fraud prosecutions”.

Subtitle B—Promoting Opportunity for Disability Beneficiaries

SEC. 821. TEMPORARY REAUTHORIZATION OF DISABILITY INSURANCE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AUTHORITY.

(a) TERMINATION DATE.—Section 234(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 434(d)(2)) is amended by striking “December 18, 2005” and inserting “December 31, 2021, and the authority to carry out such projects shall terminate on December 31, 2022”.

(b) AUTHORITY TO WAIVE COMPLIANCE WITH BENEFITS REQUIREMENTS.—Section 234(c) of such Act is amended by striking “December 17, 2005” and inserting “December 30, 2021”.

SEC. 822. MODIFICATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 234(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 434(a)(1)) is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by inserting “to promote attachment to the labor force and” after “designed”.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Section 234(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 434(c)), as amended by section 821(b) of this Act, is further amended by inserting “including the objectives of the experiment or demonstration project, the expected annual and total costs, and the dates on which the experiment or demonstration project is expected to start and finish,” after “thereof.”

(c) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—Section 234 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 434), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—In developing and carrying out any experiment or demonstration project under this section, the Commissioner may not require any individual to participate in such experiment or demonstration project and shall ensure—

“(1) that the voluntary participation of individuals in such experiment or demonstration project is obtained through informed written consent which satisfies the requirements for informed consent established by the Commissioner for use in such experiment or demonstration project in which human subjects are at risk;

“(2) that any individual’s voluntary agreement to participate in any such experiment or demonstration project may be revoked by such individual at any time; and

“(3) that such experiment or demonstration project is expected to yield statistically significant results.”.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTING DEADLINE.—Section 234(d)(1) of such Act is amended by striking “June 9” and inserting “September 30”.

SEC. 823. PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

Section 234 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 434), as amended by section 822 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) PROMOTING OPPORTUNITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner shall carry out a demonstration project under this subsection as described in paragraph (2) during a 5-year period beginning not later than January 1, 2017.

“(2) BENEFIT OFFSET.—Under the demonstration project described in this paragraph, with respect to any individual participating in the project who is otherwise entitled to a benefit under section 223(a)(1) for a month—

“(A) any such benefit otherwise payable to the individual for such month (other than a benefit payable for any month prior to the 1st month beginning after the date on which the individual’s entitlement to such benefit is determined) shall be reduced by \$1 for each \$2 by which the individual’s earnings derived from services paid during such month exceeds an amount equal to the individual’s impairment-related work expenses for such month (as determined under paragraph (3)), except that such benefit may not be reduced below \$0;

“(B) no benefit shall be payable under section 202 on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of the individual for any month for which the benefit of such individual under section 223(a)(1) is reduced to \$0 pursuant to subparagraph (A);

“(C) entitlement to any benefit described in subparagraph (A) or (B) shall not terminate due to earnings derived from services except following the first month for which such benefit has been reduced to \$0 pursuant to subparagraph (A) (and the trial work period (as defined in section 222(c)) and extended period of eligibility shall not apply to any such individual for any such month); and

“(D) in any case in which such an individual is entitled to hospital insurance benefits under part A of title XVIII by reason of section 226(b) and such individual’s entitlement to a benefit described in subparagraph (A) or (B) or status as a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary is terminated pursuant to subparagraph (C), such individual shall be deemed to be entitled to such benefits or to occupy such status (notwithstanding the termination of such entitlement or status) for the period of consecutive months throughout all of which the physical or mental impairment, on which such entitlement or status was based, continues, and throughout all of which such individual would have been entitled to monthly insurance benefits under title II or as a qualified railroad retirement beneficiary had such termination of entitlement or status not occurred, but not in excess of 93 such months.

“(3) IMPAIRMENT-RELATED WORK EXPENSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of paragraph (2)(A) and except as provided in subparagraph (C), the amount of an individual’s impairment-related work expenses for a month is deemed to be the minimum threshold amount.

“(B) MINIMUM THRESHOLD AMOUNT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘minimum threshold amount’ means an amount, to be determined by the Commissioner, which shall not exceed the amount sufficient to demonstrate that an individual has rendered services in a month, as determined by the Commissioner under section 222(c)(4)(A). The Commissioner may test multiple minimum threshold amounts.

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR ITEMIZED IMPAIRMENT-RELATED WORK EXPENSES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in any case in which the amount of such an individual’s itemized impairment-related work expenses (as defined in clause (ii)) for a month is greater than the minimum threshold amount, the amount of the individual’s impairment-related work expenses for the month shall be equal to the amount of the individual’s itemized impairment-related work expenses (as so defined) for the month.

“(ii) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term ‘itemized impairment-related work expenses’ means the amount excluded under section 223(d)(4)(A) from an individual’s earnings for a month in determining whether an individual is able to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of such earnings in such month, except that such amount does not include the cost to the individual of any item or service for which the individual does not provide to the Commissioner a satisfactory itemized accounting.

“(D) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this paragraph, for purposes of paragraph (2)(A), the amount of an individual’s impairment-related work expenses for a month shall not exceed the amount of earnings derived from services, prescribed by the Commissioner under regulations issued pursuant to section 223(d)(4)(A), sufficient to demonstrate an individual’s ability to engage in substantial gainful activity.”.

SEC. 824. USE OF ELECTRONIC PAYROLL DATA TO IMPROVE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301, et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1183 the following:

“INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH PAYROLL DATA PROVIDERS

“SEC. 1184. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Social Security may enter into an information exchange with a payroll data provider for purposes of—

“(1) efficiently administering—

“(A) monthly insurance benefits under subsections (d)(1)(B)(ii), (d)(6)(A)(ii), (d)(6)(B), (e)(1)(B)(ii), and (f)(1)(B)(ii) of section 202 and subsection (a)(1) of section 223; and

“(B) supplemental security income benefits under title XVI; and

“(2) preventing improper payments of such benefits without the need for verification by independent or collateral sources.

“(b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Before entering into an information exchange pursuant to subsection (a), the Commissioner shall publish in the Federal Register a notice describing the information exchange and the extent to which the information received through such exchange is—

“(1) relevant and necessary to—

“(A) accurately determine entitlement to, and the amount of, benefits described under subparagraph (A) of subsection (a)(1);

“(B) accurately determine eligibility for, and the amount of, benefits described in subparagraph (B) of such subsection; and

“(C) prevent improper payment of such benefits; and

“(2) sufficiently accurate, up-to-date, and complete.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) PAYROLL DATA PROVIDER.—The term ‘payroll data provider’ means payroll providers, wage verification companies, and other commercial or non-commercial entities that collect and maintain data regarding employment and wages, without regard to whether the entity provides such data for a fee or without cost.

“(2) INFORMATION EXCHANGE.—The term ‘information exchange’ means the automated comparison of a system of records maintained by the commissioner of Social Security with records maintained by a payroll data provider.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCESS INFORMATION HELD BY PAYROLL DATA PROVIDERS.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO TITLE II.—Section 225 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 425) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY PAYROLL DATA PROVIDERS.—(1) The Commissioner of Social Security may require each individual who applies for or is entitled to monthly insurance benefits under subsections (d)(1)(B)(ii), (d)(6)(A)(ii), (d)(6)(B), (e)(1)(B)(ii), and (f)(1)(B)(ii) of section 202 and subsection (a)(1) of section 223 to provide authorization by the individual for the Commissioner to obtain from any payroll data provider (as defined in section 1184(c)(1)) any record held by the payroll data provider with respect to the individual whenever the Commissioner determines the record is needed in connection with a determination of initial or ongoing entitlement to such benefits.

“(2) An authorization provided by an individual under this subsection shall remain effective until the earliest of—

“(A) the rendering of a final adverse decision on the individual’s application or entitlement to benefits under this title;

“(B) the termination of the individual’s entitlement to benefits under this title; or

“(C) the express revocation by the individual of the authorization, in a written notification to the Commissioner.

“(3) The Commissioner of Social Security is not required to furnish any authorization obtained pursuant to this subsection to the payroll data provider.

“(4) The Commissioner shall inform any person who provides authorization pursuant to this clause of the duration and scope of the authorization.

“(5) If an individual who applies for or is entitled to benefits under this title refuses to provide, or revokes, any authorization under this subsection, subsection (d) shall not apply to such individual beginning with the first day of the first month in which he or she refuses or revokes such authorization.”.

(2) TITLE XVI.—Section 1631(e)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(e)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iii)(I) The Commissioner of Social Security may require each applicant for, or recipient of, benefits under this title to provide authorization by the applicant, recipient or legal guardian (or by any other person whose income or resources are material to the determination of the eligibility of the applicant or recipient for such benefits) for the Commissioner to obtain from any payroll data provider (as defined in section 1184(c)(1)) any record held by the payroll data provider with respect to the applicant or recipient (or any such other person) whenever the Commissioner determines the record is needed in

connection with a determination of initial or ongoing eligibility or the amount of such benefits.

“(II) An authorization provided by an applicant, recipient or legal guardian (or any other person whose income or resources are material to the determination of the eligibility of the applicant or recipient) under this clause shall remain effective until the earliest of—

“(aa) the rendering of a final adverse decision on the applicant’s application for eligibility for benefits under this title;

“(bb) the cessation of the recipient’s eligibility for benefits under this title;

“(cc) the express revocation by the applicant, or recipient (or such other person referred to in subclause (I)) of the authorization, in a written notification to the Commissioner; or

“(dd) the termination of the basis upon which the Commissioner considers another person’s income and resources available to the applicant or recipient.

“(III) The Commissioner of Social Security is not required to furnish any authorization obtained pursuant to this clause to the payroll data provider.

“(IV) The Commissioner shall inform any person who provides authorization pursuant to this clause of the duration and scope of the authorization.

“(V) If an applicant for, or recipient of, benefits under this title (or any such other person referred to in subclause (I)) refuses to provide, or revokes, any authorization required by subclause (I), paragraph (2)(B) and paragraph (10) shall not apply to such applicant or recipient beginning with the first day of the first month in which he or she refuses or revokes such authorization.”

(C) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BENEFICIARIES SUBJECT TO INFORMATION EXCHANGE WITH PAYROLL DATA PROVIDER.—

(1) AMENDMENT TO TITLE II.—Section 225 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 425), as amended by subsection (b)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) An individual who has authorized the Commissioner of Social Security to obtain records from a payroll data provider under subsection (c) shall not be subject to a penalty under section 1129A for any omission or error with respect to such individual’s wages as reported by the payroll data provider.”

(2) AMENDMENT TO TITLE XVI.—Section 1631(e) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “In the case of the failure” and inserting “(A) In the case of the failure”;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respectively; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Commissioner of Social Security shall find that good cause exists for the failure of, or delay by, an individual in submitting a report of an event or change in circumstances relevant to eligibility for or amount of benefits under this title in any case where—

“(i) the individual (or another person referred to in paragraph (1)(B)(iii)(I)) has provided authorization to the Commissioner to access payroll data records related to the individual; and

“(ii) the event or change in circumstance is a change in the individual’s employer.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) An individual who has authorized the Commissioner of Social Security to obtain records from a payroll data provider under paragraph (1)(B)(iii) (or on whose behalf another person described in subclause (I) of such paragraph has provided such authorization) shall not be subject to a penalty under

section 1129A for any omission or error with respect to such individual’s wages as reported by the payroll data provider.”

(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of Social Security shall prescribe by regulation procedures for implementing the Commissioner’s access to and use of information held by payroll providers, including—

(1) guidelines for establishing and maintaining information exchanges with payroll providers, pursuant to section 1184 of the Social Security Act;

(2) beneficiary authorizations;

(3) reduced wage reporting responsibilities for individuals who authorize the Commissioner to access information held by payroll data providers through an information exchange; and

(4) procedures for notifying individuals in writing when they become subject to such reduced wage reporting requirements and when such reduced wage reporting requirements no longer apply to them.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 825. TREATMENT OF EARNINGS DERIVED FROM SERVICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223(d)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d)(4)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(C)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in determining when earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual’s ability to engage in substantial gainful activity, such earnings shall be presumed to have been earned—

“(I) in making a determination of initial entitlement on the basis of disability, in the month in which the services were performed from which such earnings were derived; and

“(II) in any other case, in the month in which such earnings were paid.

“(ii) A presumption made under clause (i) shall not apply to a determination described in such clause if—

“(I) the Commissioner can reasonably establish, based on evidence readily available at the time of such determination, that the earnings were earned in a different month than when paid; or

“(II) in any case in which there is a determination that no benefit is payable due to earnings, after the individual is notified of the presumption made and provided with an opportunity to submit additional information along with an explanation of what additional information is needed, the individual shows to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that such earnings were earned in another month.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect upon the date of the enactment of this Act, or as soon as practicable thereafter.

SEC. 826. ELECTRONIC REPORTING OF EARNINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2017, the Commissioner of Social Security shall establish and implement a system that—

(1) allows an individual entitled to a monthly insurance benefit based on disability under title II of the Social Security Act (or a representative of the individual) to report to the Commissioner the individual’s earnings derived from services through electronic means, including by telephone and Internet; and

(2) automatically issues a receipt to the individual (or representative) after receiving each such report.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME REPORTING SYSTEM AS MODEL.—The Commis-

sioner shall model the system established under subsection (a) on the electronic wage reporting systems for recipients of supplemental security income under title XVI of such Act.

Subtitle C—Protecting Social Security Benefits

SEC. 831. CLOSURE OF UNINTENDED LOOP-HOLES.

(a) PRESUMED FILING OF APPLICATION BY INDIVIDUALS ELIGIBLE FOR OLD-AGE INSURANCE BENEFITS AND FOR WIFE’S OR HUSBAND’S INSURANCE BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(r) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(r)) is amended by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and inserting the following:

“(1) If an individual is eligible for a wife’s or husband’s insurance benefit (except in the case of eligibility pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B) or subsection (c)(1)(B), as appropriate), in any month for which the individual is entitled to an old-age insurance benefit, such individual shall be deemed to have filed an application for wife’s or husband’s insurance benefits for such month.

“(2) If an individual is eligible (but for section 202(k)(4)) for an old-age insurance benefit in any month for which the individual is entitled to a wife’s or husband’s insurance benefit (except in the case of entitlement pursuant to clause (ii) of subsection (b)(1)(B) or subsection (c)(1)(B), as appropriate), such individual shall be deemed to have filed an application for old-age insurance benefits—

“(A) for such month, or

“(B) if such individual is also entitled to a disability insurance benefit for such month, in the first subsequent month for which such individual is not entitled to a disability insurance benefit.”

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B)(i) has attained age 62, or

“(ii) in the case of a wife, has in her care (individually or jointly with such individual) at the time of filing such application a child entitled to a child’s insurance benefit on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of such individual.”; and

(B) in subsection (c)(1), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B)(i) has attained age 62, or

“(ii) in the case of a husband, has in his care (individually or jointly with such individual) at the time of filing such application a child entitled to a child’s insurance benefit on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of such individual.”

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to individuals who attain age 62 in any calendar year after 2015.

(b) VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION OF BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 202 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(z) VOLUNTARY SUSPENSION.—(1)(A) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, any individual who has attained retirement age (as defined in section 216(l)) and is entitled to old-age insurance benefits may request that payment of such benefits be suspended—

“(i) beginning with the month following the month in which such request is received by the Commissioner, and

“(ii) ending with the earlier of the month following the month in which a request by the individual for a resumption of such benefits is so received or the month following the month in which the individual attains the age of 70.

“(2) An individual may not suspend such benefits under this subsection, and any suspension of such benefits under this subsection shall end, effective with respect to any month in which the individual becomes subject to—

“(A) mandatory suspension of such benefits under section 202(x);

“(B) termination of such benefits under section 202(n);

“(C) a penalty under section 1129A imposing nonpayment of such benefits; or

“(D) any other withholding, in whole or in part, of such benefits under any other provision of law that authorizes recovery of a debt by withholding such benefits.

“(3) In the case of an individual who requests that such benefits be suspended under this subsection, for any month during the period in which the suspension is in effect—

“(A) no retroactive benefits (as defined in subsection (j)(4)(B)(iii)) shall be payable to such individual;

“(B) no monthly benefit shall be payable to any other individual on the basis of such individual's wages and self-employment income; and

“(C) no monthly benefit shall be payable to such individual on the basis of another individual's wages and self-employment income.”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 202(w)(2)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(w)(2)(B)(ii)) is amended by inserting “under section 202(z)” after “request”.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to requests for benefit suspension submitted beginning at least 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 832. REQUIREMENT FOR MEDICAL REVIEW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 221(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 421(h)) is amended to read as follows:

“(h) An initial determination under subsection (a), (c), (g), or (i) shall not be made until the Commissioner of Social Security has made every reasonable effort to ensure—

“(1) in any case where there is evidence which indicates the existence of a mental impairment, that a qualified psychiatrist or psychologist has completed the medical portion of the case review and any applicable residual functional capacity assessment; and

“(2) in any case where there is evidence which indicates the existence of a physical impairment, that a qualified physician has completed the medical portion of the case review and any applicable residual functional capacity assessment.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply with respect to determinations of disability made on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 833. REALLOCATION OF PAYROLL TAX REVENUE.

(1) **WAGES.**—Section 201(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(b)(1)) is amended by striking “and (R) 1.80 per centum of the wages (as so defined) paid after December 31, 1999, and so reported” and inserting “(R) 1.80 per centum of the wages (as so defined) paid after December 31, 1999, and before January 1, 2016, and so reported, (S) 2.37 per centum of the wages (as so defined) paid after December 31, 2015, and before January 1, 2019, and so reported, and (T) 1.80 per centum of the wages (as so defined) paid after December 31, 2018, and so reported.”.

(2) **SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME.**—Section 201(b)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 401(b)(2)) is amended by striking “and (R) 1.80 per centum of the amount of self-employment income (as so defined) so reported for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1999” and inserting “(R) 1.80 per centum of the

amount of self-employment income (as so defined) so reported for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 1999, and before January 1, 2016, (S) 2.37 per centum of the amount of self-employment income (as so defined) so reported for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2015, and before January 1, 2019, and (T) 1.80 per centum of the amount of self-employment income (as so defined) so reported for any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2018”.

(3) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to wages paid after December 31, 2015, and self-employment income for taxable years beginning after such date.

SEC. 834. ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR WAIVERS AND ADJUSTMENTS OF RECOVERY.

(a) **ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR OLD-AGE, SURVIVORS, AND DISABILITY INSURANCE WAIVERS.**—Section 204(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 404(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b)(1) In any case in which more than the correct amount of payment has been made, there shall be no adjustment of payments to, or recovery by the United States from, any person who is without fault if such adjustment or recovery would defeat the purpose of this title or would be against equity and good conscience.

“(2) In making for purposes of this subsection any determination of whether any individual is without fault, the Commissioner of Social Security shall specifically take into account any physical, mental, educational, or linguistic limitation such individual may have (including any lack of facility with the English language).

“(3)(A) In making for purposes of this subsection any determination of whether such adjustment or recovery would defeat the purpose of this title, the Commissioner of Social Security shall require an individual to provide authorization for the Commissioner to obtain (subject to the cost reimbursement requirements of section 1115(a) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act) from any financial institution (within the meaning of section 1101(1) of such Act) any financial record (within the meaning of section 1101(2) of such Act) held by the institution with respect to such individual whenever the Commissioner determines the record is needed in connection with a determination with respect to such adjustment or recovery.

“(B) Notwithstanding section 1104(a)(1) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act, an authorization provided by an individual pursuant to this paragraph shall remain effective until the earlier of—

“(i) the rendering of a final decision on whether adjustment or recovery would defeat the purpose of this title; or

“(ii) the express revocation by the individual of the authorization, in a written notification to the Commissioner.

“(C)(i) An authorization obtained by the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to this paragraph shall be considered to meet the requirements of the Right to Financial Privacy Act for purposes of section 1103(a) of such Act, and need not be furnished to the financial institution, notwithstanding section 1104(a) of such Act.

“(ii) The certification requirements of section 1103(b) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act shall not apply to requests by the Commissioner of Social Security pursuant to an authorization provided under this paragraph.

“(iii) A request by the Commissioner pursuant to an authorization provided under this paragraph is deemed to meet the requirements of section 1104(a)(3) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act and the flush language of section 1102 of such Act.

“(D) The Commissioner shall inform any person who provides authorization pursuant

to this paragraph of the duration and scope of the authorization.

“(E) If an individual refuses to provide, or revokes, any authorization for the Commissioner of Social Security to obtain from any financial institution any financial record, the Commissioner may, on that basis, determine that adjustment or recovery would not defeat the purpose of this title.”.

(b) **ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME WAIVERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1631(b)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(b)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In making for purposes of this subparagraph a determination of whether an adjustment or recovery would defeat the purpose of this title, the Commissioner of Social Security shall require an individual to provide authorization for the Commissioner to obtain (subject to the cost reimbursement requirements of section 1115(a) of the Right to Financial Privacy Act) from any financial institution (within the meaning of section 1101(1) of such Act) any financial record (within the meaning of section 1101(2) of such Act) held by the institution with respect to such individual whenever the Commissioner determines that the record is needed in connection with a determination with respect to such adjustment or recovery, under the terms and conditions established under subsection (e)(1)(B).”.

(2) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 1631(e)(1)(B)(ii)(V) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1383(e)(1)(B)(ii)(V)) is amended by inserting “, determine that adjustment or recovery on account of an overpayment with respect to the applicant or recipient would not defeat the purpose of this title, or both” before the period at the end.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to determinations made on or after the date that is 3 months after the date of the enactment of this section.

Subtitle D—Relieving Administrative Burdens and Miscellaneous Provisions

SEC. 841. INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TO IMPROVE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Title XI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1127 the following:

“INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TO IMPROVE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

“SEC. 1127A. (a) **COORDINATION AGREEMENT.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 207 of this Act, the Commissioner of Social Security (referred to in this section as ‘the Commissioner’) and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management (referred to in this section as ‘the Director’) shall enter into an agreement under which a system is established to carry out the following procedure:

“(1) The Director shall notify the Commissioner when any individual is determined to be entitled to a monthly disability annuity payment pursuant to subchapter V of chapter 84 of subpart G of part III of title 5, United States Code, and shall certify that such individual has provided the authorization described in subsection (f).

“(2) If the Commissioner determines that an individual described in paragraph (1) is also entitled to past-due benefits under section 223, the Commissioner shall notify the Director of such fact.

“(3) Not later than 30 days after receiving a notification described in paragraph (2) with respect to an individual, the Director shall provide the Commissioner with the total amount of any disability annuity overpayments made to such individual, as well as any other information (in such form and manner as the Commissioner shall require) that the Commissioner determines is necessary to carry out this section.

“(4) If the Director provides the Commissioner with the information described in paragraph (3) in a timely manner, the Commissioner may withhold past-due benefits under section 223 to which such individual is entitled and may pay the amount described in paragraph (3) to the Office of Personnel Management for any disability annuity overpayments made to such individual.

“(5) The Director shall credit any amount received under paragraph (4) with respect to an individual toward any disability annuity overpayment owed by such individual.

“(b) LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) PRIORITY OF OTHER REDUCTIONS.—Benefits shall only be withheld under this section after any other reduction applicable under this Act, including sections 206(a)(4), 224, and 1127(a).

“(2) TIMELY NOTIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Commissioner may not withhold benefits under this section if the Director does not provide the notice described in subsection (a)(3) within the time period described in such subsection.

“(c) DELAYED PAYMENT OF PAST-DUE BENEFITS.—If the Commissioner is required to make a notification described in subsection (a)(2) with respect to an individual, the Commissioner shall not make any payment of past-due benefits under section 223 to such individual until after the period described in subsection (a)(3).

“(d) REVIEW.—Notwithstanding section 205 or any other provision of law, any determination regarding the withholding of past-due benefits under this section shall only be subject to adjudication and review by the Director under section 8461 of title 5, United States Code.

“(e) DISABILITY ANNUITY OVERPAYMENT DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘disability annuity overpayment’ means the amount of the reduction under section 8452(a)(2) of title 5, United States Code, applicable to a monthly annuity payment made to an individual pursuant to subchapter V of chapter 84 of subpart G of part III of such title due to the individual’s concurrent entitlement to a disability insurance benefit under section 223 during such month.

“(f) AUTHORIZATION TO WITHHOLD BENEFITS.—The authorization described in this subsection, with respect to an individual, is written authorization provided by the individual to the Director which authorizes the Commissioner to withhold past-due benefits under section 223 to which such individual is entitled in order to pay the amount withheld to the Office of Personnel Management for any disability overpayments made to such individual.

“(g) EXPENSES.—The Director shall pay to the Social Security Administration an amount equal to the amount estimated by the Commissioner as the total cost incurred by the Social Security Administration in carrying out this section for each calendar quarter.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to past-due disability insurance benefits payable on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section.

SEC. 842. ELIMINATION OF QUINQUENNIAL DETERMINATIONS RELATING TO WAGE CREDITS FOR MILITARY SERVICE PRIOR TO 1957.

Section 217(g)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 417(g)(2)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “through 2010” after “each fifth year thereafter”; and

(2) by inserting after the first sentence the following: “The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall revise the amount determined under paragraph (1) with respect to the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund under title XVIII in 2015 and each fifth year

thereafter through such date, and using such data, as the Secretary determines appropriate on the basis of the amount of benefits and administrative expenses actually paid from such Trust Fund under title XVIII and the relevant actuarial assumptions set forth in the report of the Board of Trustees of such Trust Fund for such year under section 1817(b).”

SEC. 843. CERTIFICATION OF BENEFITS PAYABLE TO A DIVORCED SPOUSE OF A RAILROAD WORKER TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD.

Section 205(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405(i)) is amended by inserting “or divorced wife or divorced husband” after “the wife or husband”.

SEC. 844. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO ELIMINATE OBSOLETE PROVISIONS.

(a) ELIMINATION OF REFERENCE IN SECTION 226 TO A REPEALED PROVISION.—Section 226 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 426) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (i); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (i).

(b) ELIMINATION OF REFERENCE IN SECTION 226A TO A REPEALED PROVISION.—Section 226A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 426-1) is amended by striking the second subsection (c).

SEC. 845. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) REPORT ON FRAUD AND IMPROPER PAYMENT PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.—Section 704(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 904(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) For each fiscal year beginning with 2016 and ending with 2021, the Commissioner shall include in the annual budget prepared pursuant to subparagraph (A) a report describing the purposes for which amounts made available for purposes described in section 251(b)(2)(B) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 for the fiscal year were expended by the Social Security Administration and the purposes for which the Commissioner plans for the Administration to expend such funds in the succeeding fiscal year, including—

“(A) the total such amount expended;

“(B) the amount expended on co-operative disability investigation units;

“(C) the number of cases of fraud prevented by co-operative disability investigation units and the amount expended on such cases (as reported to the Commissioner by the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration);

“(D) the number of felony cases prosecuted under section 208 (as reported to the Commissioner by the Inspector General) and the amount expended by the Social Security Administration in supporting the prosecution of such cases;

“(E) the amount of such felony cases successfully prosecuted (as reported to the Commissioner by the Inspector General) and the amount expended by the Social Security Administration in supporting the prosecution of such cases;

“(F) the amount expended on and the number of completed—

“(i) continuing disability reviews conducted by mail;

“(ii) redeterminations conducted by mail;

“(iii) medical continuing disability reviews conducted pursuant to section 221(i);

“(iv) medical continuing disability reviews conducted pursuant to 1614(a)(3)(H);

“(v) redeterminations conducted pursuant to section 1611(c); and

“(vi) work-related continuing disability reviews to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual’s ability to engage in substantial gainful activity;

“(G) the number of cases of fraud identified for which benefits were terminated as a re-

sult of medical continuing disability reviews (as reported to the Commissioner by the Inspector General), work-related continuing disability reviews, and redeterminations, and the amount of resulting savings for each such type of review or redetermination; and

“(H) the number of work-related continuing disability reviews in which a beneficiary improperly reported earnings derived from services for more than 3 consecutive months, and the amount of resulting savings.”

(b) REPORT ON WORK-RELATED CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS.—The Commissioner of Social Security shall annually submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the number of work-related continuing disability reviews conducted each year to determine whether earnings derived from services demonstrate an individual’s ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. Such report shall include—

(1) the number of individuals receiving benefits based on disability under title II of such Act for whom reports of earnings were received from any source by the Commissioner in the previous calendar year, reported as a total number and separately by the source of the report;

(2) the number of individuals for whom such reports resulted in a determination to conduct a work-related continuing disability review, and the basis on which such determinations were made;

(3) in the case of a beneficiary selected for a work-related continuing disability review on the basis of a report of earnings from any source—

(A) the average number of days—

(i) between the receipt of the report and the initiation of the review,

(ii) between the initiation and the completion of the review, and

(iii) the average amount of overpayment, if any;

(B) the number of such reviews completed during such calendar year, and the number of such reviews that resulted in a suspension or termination of benefits;

(C) the number of such reviews initiated in the current year that had not been completed as of the end of such calendar year;

(D) the number of such reviews initiated in a prior year that had not been completed as of the end of such calendar year;

(4) the total savings to the Trust Funds and the Treasury generated from benefits suspended or terminated as a result of such reviews; and

(5) with respect to individuals for whom a work-related continuing disability review was completed during such calendar year—

(A) the number who participated in the Ticket to Work program under section 1148 during such calendar year;

(B) the number who used any program work incentives during such calendar year; and

(C) the number who received vocational rehabilitation services during such calendar year with respect to which the Commissioner of Social Security reimbursed a State agency under section 222(d).

(c) REPORT ON OVERPAYMENT WAIVERS.—Not later than January 1 of each calendar year, the Commissioner of Social Security shall submit to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on—

(1) the number and total value of overpayments recovered or scheduled to be recovered by the Social Security Administration during the previous fiscal year of benefits under title II and title XVI, respectively, including

the terms and conditions of repayment of such overpayments; and

(2) the number and total value of overpayments waived by the Social Security Administration during the previous fiscal year of benefits under title II and title XVI, respectively.

SEC. 846. EXPEDITED EXAMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office of Personnel Management shall, upon request of the Commissioner of Social Security, expeditiously administer a sufficient number of competitive examinations, as determined by the Commissioner, for the purpose of identifying an adequate number of candidates to be appointed as Administrative Law Judges under section 3105 of title 5, United States Code. The first such examination shall take place not later than April 1, 2016 and other examinations shall take place at such time or times requested by the Commissioner, but not later than December 31, 2022. Such examinations shall proceed even if one or more individuals who took a prior examination have appealed an adverse determination and one or more of such appeals have not concluded, provided that—

(1) the Commissioner of Social Security has made a determination that delaying the examination poses a significant risk that an adequate number of Administrative Law Judges will not be available to meet the need of the Social Security Administration to reduce or prevent a backlog of cases awaiting a hearing;

(2) an individual whose appeal is pending is provided an option to continue their appeal or elects to take the new examination, in which case the appeal is considered vacated; and

(3) an individual who decides to continue his or her appeal and who ultimately prevails in the appeal shall receive expeditious consideration for hire by the Office Personnel Management and the Commissioner of Social Security.

(b) **PAYMENT OF COSTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Commissioner of Social Security shall pay the full cost associated with each examination conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

TITLE IX—TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT

SEC. 901. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on March 15, 2017.

(b) **SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.**—Effective March 16, 2017, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on March 16, 2017, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 902. RESTORING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONAL DEBT.

(a) **EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.**—An obligation shall not be taken into account under section 901(b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before March 16, 2017.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON CREATION OF CASH RESERVE DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.**—The Sec-

retary of the Treasury shall not issue obligations during the period specified in section 901(a) for the purpose of increasing the cash balance above normal operating balances in anticipation of the expiration of such period.

TITLE X—SPECTRUM PIPELINE

SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015”.

SEC. 1002. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **ASSISTANT SECRETARY.**—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Federal Communications Commission.

(3) **FEDERAL ENTITY.**—The term “Federal entity” has the meaning given such term in section 113(l) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923(l)).

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

SEC. 1003. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Each range of frequencies described in this title shall be construed to be inclusive of the upper and lower frequencies in the range.

SEC. 1004. IDENTIFICATION, REALLOCATION, AND AUCTION OF FEDERAL SPECTRUM.

(a) **IDENTIFICATION OF SPECTRUM.**—Not later than January 1, 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the President and to the Commission a report identifying 30 megahertz of electromagnetic spectrum (in bands of not less than 10 megahertz of contiguous frequencies) below the frequency of 3 gigahertz (except for the spectrum between the frequencies of 1675 megahertz and 1695 megahertz) for reallocation from Federal use to non-Federal use or shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof.

(b) **CLEARING OF SPECTRUM.**—The President shall—

(1) not later than January 1, 2022, begin the process of withdrawing or modifying the assignment to a Federal Government station of the electromagnetic spectrum identified under subsection (a); and

(2) not later than 30 days after completing the withdrawal or modification, notify the Commission that the withdrawal or modification is complete.

(c) **REALLOCATION AND AUCTION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall—

(A) reallocate the electromagnetic spectrum identified under subsection (a) for non-Federal use or shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof; and

(B) notwithstanding paragraph (15)(A) of section 309(j) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)), not later than July 1, 2024, begin a system of competitive bidding under such section to grant new initial licenses for the use of such spectrum, subject to flexible-use service rules.

(2) **PROCEEDS TO COVER 110 PERCENT OF FEDERAL RELOCATION OR SHARING COSTS.**—Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to relieve the Commission from the requirements of section 309(j)(16)(B) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(16)(B)).

SEC. 1005. ADDITIONAL USES OF SPECTRUM RELOCATION FUND.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 118 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 928) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) **ADDITIONAL PAYMENTS FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING ACTIVITIES.**—

“(1) **AMOUNTS AVAILABLE.**—Notwithstanding subsections (c) through (e)—

“(A) there are appropriated from the Fund on the date of the enactment of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, and available to the Director of OMB for use in accordance with paragraph (2), not more than \$500,000,000 from amounts in the Fund on such date of enactment; and

“(B) there are appropriated from the Fund after such date of enactment, and available to the Director of OMB for use in accordance with such paragraph, not more than 10 percent of the amounts deposited in the Fund after such date of enactment.

“(2) **USE OF AMOUNTS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of OMB may use amounts made available under paragraph (1) to make payments requested by Federal entities for research and development, engineering studies, economic analyses, activities with respect to systems, or other planning activities intended to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the spectrum use of Federal entities in order to make available frequencies described in subparagraph (C) for reallocation for non-Federal use or shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof, and for auction in accordance with such reallocation.

“(B) **SYSTEMS THAT IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL SPECTRUM USE.**—For purposes of a payment under subparagraph (A) for activities with respect to systems that improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the spectrum use of Federal entities, such systems include the following:

“(i) Systems that have increased functionality or that increase the ability of a Federal entity to accommodate spectrum sharing with non-Federal entities.

“(ii) Systems that consolidate functions or services that have been provided using separate systems.

“(iii) Non-spectrum technology or systems.

“(C) **FREQUENCIES DESCRIBED.**—The frequencies described in this subparagraph are, with respect to a payment under subparagraph (A), frequencies that—

“(i) are assigned to a Federal entity; and

“(ii) at the time of the activities conducted with such payment, are not identified for auction.

“(D) **CONDITIONS.**—The Director of OMB may not make a payment to a Federal entity under subparagraph (A)—

“(i) unless—

“(I) the Federal entity has submitted to the Technical Panel established under section 113(h)(3) a plan describing the activities that the Federal entity will conduct with such payment;

“(II) the Technical Panel has approved such plan under subparagraph (E); and

“(III) the Director of OMB has submitted the plan approved under subparagraph (E) to the congressional committees described in subsection (d)(2)(C); and

“(ii) until 60 days have elapsed after submission of the plan under clause (i)(III).

“(E) **REVIEW BY TECHNICAL PANEL.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 120 days after a Federal entity submits a plan under subparagraph (D)(i)(I) to the Technical Panel established under section 113(h)(3), the Technical Panel shall approve or disapprove such plan.

“(ii) **CRITERIA FOR REVIEW.**—In considering whether to approve or disapprove a plan under this subparagraph, the Technical Panel shall consider whether—

“(I) the activities that the Federal entity will conduct with the payment will—

“(aa) increase the probability of relocation from or sharing of Federal spectrum;

“(bb) facilitate an auction intended to occur not later than 8 years after the payment; and

“(cc) increase the net expected auction proceeds in an amount not less than the time value of the amount of the payment; and

“(II) the transfer will leave sufficient amounts in the Fund for the other purposes of the Fund.

“(h) **PRIORITIZATION OF PAYMENTS.**—In determining whether to make payments under subsections (f) and (g), the Director of OMB shall, to the extent practicable, prioritize payments under subsection (g).”.

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR TECHNICAL PANEL.**—Section 113(h)(3)(C) of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923(h)(3)(C)) is amended by striking “this subsection and subsection (i)” and inserting “this subsection, subsection (i), and section 118(g)(2)(E)”.

(c) **ELIGIBLE FEDERAL ENTITIES.**—Section 113 of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 923) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “authorized to use a band of eligible frequencies described in paragraph (2) and”; and

(ii) by inserting “eligible” after “auction of”; and

(iii) by inserting “eligible” after “reallocation of”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “previously assigned to such entity or the sharing of spectrum frequencies assigned to such entity” and inserting “or the sharing of spectrum frequencies”; and

(2) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “authorized to use any such frequency”.

SEC. 1006. PLANS FOR AUCTION OF CERTAIN SPECTRUM.

(a) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—In accordance with each paragraph of subsection (c), the Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report containing a proposed plan for the assignment of new licenses for non-Federal use of the spectrum identified under such paragraph, including—

(1) an assessment of the operations of Federal entities that operate Federal Government stations authorized to use such spectrum;

(2) an estimated timeline for the competitive bidding process; and

(3) a proposed plan for balance between unlicensed and licensed use.

(b) **INFORMATION FOR ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL ENTITY OPERATIONS.**—The Assistant Secretary, in coordination with the affected Federal entities, shall provide to the Commission the necessary information to carry out subsection (a)(1).

(c) **REPORT DEADLINES; IDENTIFICATION OF SPECTRUM.**—The Commission shall submit reports under subsection (a) as follows:

(1) Not later than January 1, 2022, for at least 50 megahertz of spectrum (in bands of not less than 10 megahertz of contiguous frequencies) below 6 gigahertz, to be identified by the Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, from spectrum other than the spectrum identified under section 1004(a).

(2) Not later than January 1, 2024, for at least 50 megahertz of spectrum (in bands of not less than 10 megahertz of contiguous frequencies) below 6 gigahertz, to be identified by the Commission, in coordination with the Assistant Secretary, from spectrum other than the spectrum identified under paragraph (1) or section 1004(a).

SEC. 1007. FCC AUCTION AUTHORITY.

Section 309(j)(11) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 309(j)(11)) is amended by

inserting before the period at the end the following: “, except that, with respect to the electromagnetic spectrum identified under section 1004(a) of the Spectrum Pipeline Act of 2015, such authority shall expire on September 30, 2025”.

SEC. 1008. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress—

(1) a report containing an analysis of the results of the rules changes relating to the frequencies between 3550 megahertz and 3650 megahertz; and

(2) a report containing an analysis of proposals to promote and identify additional spectrum bands that can be shared between incumbent uses and new licensed, and unlicensed services under such rules and identification of at least 1 gigahertz between 6 gigahertz and 57 GHz for such use.

TITLE XI—REVENUE PROVISIONS RELATED TO TAX COMPLIANCE

SEC. 1101. PARTNERSHIP AUDITS AND ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) **REPEAL OF TEFRA PARTNERSHIP AUDIT RULES.**—Chapter 63 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking subchapter C (and by striking the item relating to such subchapter in the table of subchapters for such chapter).

(b) **REPEAL OF ELECTING LARGE PARTNERSHIP RULES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subchapter K of chapter 1 of such Code is amended by striking part IV (and by striking the item relating to such part in the table of parts for such subchapter).

(2) **ASSESSMENT RULES RELATING TO ELECTING LARGE PARTNERSHIPS.**—Chapter 63 of such Code is amended by striking subchapter D (and by striking the item relating to such subchapter in the table of subchapters for such chapter).

(c) **PARTNERSHIP AUDIT REFORM.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 63 of such Code, as amended by the preceding provisions of this section, is amended by inserting after subchapter B the following new subchapter:

“Subchapter C—Treatment of Partnerships

“PART I—IN GENERAL

“PART II—PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

“PART III—PROCEDURE

“PART IV—DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES

“PART I—IN GENERAL

“Sec. 6221. Determination at partnership level.

“Sec. 6222. Partner’s return must be consistent with partnership return.

“Sec. 6223. Designation of partnership representative.

“SEC. 6221. DETERMINATION AT PARTNERSHIP LEVEL.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Any adjustment to items of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a partnership for a partnership taxable year (and any partner’s distributive share thereof) shall be determined, any tax attributable thereto shall be assessed and collected, and the applicability of any penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount which relates to an adjustment to any such item or share shall be determined, at the partnership level pursuant to this subchapter.

“(b) **ELECTION OUT FOR CERTAIN PARTNERSHIPS WITH 100 OR FEWER PARTNERS, ETC.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—This subchapter shall not apply with respect to any partnership for any taxable year if—

“(A) the partnership elects the application of this subsection for such taxable year,

“(B) for such taxable year the partnership is required to furnish 100 or fewer statements under section 6031(b) with respect to its partners,

“(C) each of the partners of such partnership is an individual, a C corporation, any foreign entity that would be treated as a C corporation were it domestic, an S corporation, or an estate of a deceased partner,

“(D) the election—

“(i) is made with a timely filed return for such taxable year, and

“(ii) includes (in the manner prescribed by the Secretary) a disclosure of the name and taxpayer identification number of each partner of such partnership, and

“(E) the partnership notifies each such partner of such election in the manner prescribed by the Secretary.

“(2) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO CERTAIN PARTNERS.—

“(A) **S CORPORATION PARTNERS.**—In the case of a partner that is an S corporation—

“(i) the partnership shall only be treated as meeting the requirements of paragraph (1)(C) with respect to such partner if such partnership includes (in the manner prescribed by the Secretary) a disclosure of the name and taxpayer identification number of each person with respect to whom such S corporation is required to furnish a statement under section 6037(b) for the taxable year of the S corporation ending with or within the partnership taxable year for which the application of this subsection is elected, and

“(ii) the statements such S corporation is required to so furnish shall be treated as statements furnished by the partnership for purposes of paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) **FOREIGN PARTNERS.**—For purposes of paragraph (1)(D)(ii), the Secretary may provide for alternative identification of any foreign partners.

“(C) **OTHER PARTNERS.**—The Secretary may by regulation or other guidance prescribe rules similar to the rules of subparagraph (A) with respect to any partners not described in such subparagraph or paragraph (1)(C).

“SEC. 6222. PARTNER’S RETURN MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH PARTNERSHIP RETURN.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A partner shall, on the partner’s return, treat each item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit attributable to a partnership in a manner which is consistent with the treatment of such income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit on the partnership return.

“(b) **UNDERPAYMENT DUE TO INCONSISTENT TREATMENT ASSESSED AS MATH ERROR.**—Any underpayment of tax by a partner by reason of failing to comply with the requirements of subsection (a) shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as if such underpayment were on account of a mathematical or clerical error appearing on the partner’s return. Paragraph (2) of section 6213(b) shall not apply to any assessment of an underpayment referred to in the preceding sentence.

“(c) **EXCEPTION FOR NOTIFICATION OF INCONSISTENT TREATMENT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In the case of any item referred to in subsection (a), if—

“(A)(i) the partnership has filed a return but the partner’s treatment on the partner’s return is (or may be) inconsistent with the treatment of the item on the partnership return, or

“(ii) the partnership has not filed a return, and

“(B) the partner files with the Secretary a statement identifying the inconsistency, subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to such item.

“(2) **PARTNER RECEIVING INCORRECT INFORMATION.**—A partner shall be treated as having complied with subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) with respect to an item if the partner—

“(A) demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the treatment of the item

on the partner's return is consistent with the treatment of the item on the statement furnished to the partner by the partnership, and

“(B) elects to have this paragraph apply with respect to that item.

“(d) FINAL DECISION ON CERTAIN POSITIONS NOT BINDING ON PARTNERSHIP.—Any final decision with respect to an inconsistent position identified under subsection (c) in a proceeding to which the partnership is not a party shall not be binding on the partnership.

“(e) ADDITION TO TAX FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SECTION.—For addition to tax in the case of a partner's disregard of the requirements of this section, see part II of subchapter A of chapter 68.

“SEC. 6223. PARTNERS BOUND BY ACTIONS OF PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) DESIGNATION OF PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVE.—Each partnership shall designate (in the manner prescribed by the Secretary) a partner (or other person) with a substantial presence in the United States as the partnership representative who shall have the sole authority to act on behalf of the partnership under this subchapter. In any case in which such a designation is not in effect, the Secretary may select any person as the partnership representative.

“(b) BINDING EFFECT.—A partnership and all partners of such partnership shall be bound—

“(1) by actions taken under this subchapter by the partnership, and

“(2) by any final decision in a proceeding brought under this subchapter with respect to the partnership.

“PART II—PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

“Sec. 6225. Partnership adjustment by Secretary.

“Sec. 6226. Alternative to payment of imputed underpayment by partnership.

“Sec. 6227. Administrative adjustment request by partnership.

“SEC. 6225. PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT BY SECRETARY.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any adjustment by the Secretary in the amount of any item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a partnership, or any partner's distributive share thereof—

“(1) the partnership shall pay any imputed underpayment with respect to such adjustment in the adjustment year as provided in section 6232, and

“(2) any adjustment that does not result in an imputed underpayment shall be taken into account by the partnership in the adjustment year—

“(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), as a reduction in non-separately stated income or an increase in non-separately stated loss (whichever is appropriate) under section 702(a)(8), or

“(B) in the case of an item of credit, as a separately stated item.

“(b) DETERMINATION OF IMPUTED UNDERPAYMENTS.—For purposes of this subchapter—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (c), any imputed underpayment with respect to any partnership adjustment for any reviewed year shall be determined—

“(A) by netting all adjustments of items of income, gain, loss, or deduction and multiplying such net amount by the highest rate of tax in effect for the reviewed year under section 1 or 11,

“(B) by treating any net increase or decrease in loss under subparagraph (A) as a decrease or increase, respectively, in income, and

“(C) by taking into account any adjustments to items of credit as an increase or decrease, as the case may be, in the amount determined under subparagraph (A).

“(2) ADJUSTMENTS TO DISTRIBUTIVE SHARES OF PARTNERS NOT NETTED.—In the case of any adjustment which reallocates the distributive share of any item from one partner to another, such adjustment shall be taken into account under paragraph (1) by disregarding—

“(A) any decrease in any item of income or gain, and

“(B) any increase in any item of deduction, loss, or credit.

“(c) MODIFICATION OF IMPUTED UNDERPAYMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish procedures under which the imputed underpayment amount may be modified consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

“(2) AMENDED RETURNS OF PARTNERS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Such procedures shall provide that if—

“(i) one or more partners file returns (notwithstanding section 6511) for the taxable year of the partners which includes the end of the reviewed year of the partnership,

“(ii) such returns take into account all adjustments under subsection (a) properly allocable to such partners (and for any other taxable year with respect to which any tax attribute is affected by reason of such adjustments), and

“(iii) payment of any tax due is included with such return, then the imputed underpayment amount shall be determined without regard to the portion of the adjustments so taken into account.

“(B) REALLOCATION OF DISTRIBUTIVE SHARE.—In the case of any adjustment which reallocates the distributive share of any item from one partner to another, paragraph (2) shall apply only if returns are filed by all partners affected by such adjustment.

“(3) TAX-EXEMPT PARTNERS.—Such procedures shall provide for determining the imputed underpayment without regard to the portion thereof that the partnership demonstrates is allocable to a partner that would not owe tax by reason of its status as a tax-exempt entity (as defined in section 168(h)(2)).

“(4) MODIFICATION OF APPLICABLE HIGHEST TAX RATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Such procedures shall provide for taking into account a rate of tax lower than the rate of tax described in subsection (b)(1)(A) with respect to any portion of the imputed underpayment that the partnership demonstrates is allocable to a partner which—

“(i) in the case of ordinary income, is a C corporation, or

“(ii) in the case of a capital gain or qualified dividend, is an individual.

In no event shall the lower rate determined under the preceding sentence be less than the highest rate in effect with respect to the income and taxpayer described in clause (i) or clause (ii), as the case may be. For purposes of clause (ii), an S corporation shall be treated as an individual.

“(B) PORTION OF IMPUTED UNDERPAYMENT TO WHICH LOWER RATE APPLIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the portion of the imputed underpayment to which the lower rate applies with respect to a partner under subparagraph (A) shall be determined by reference to the partners' distributive share of items to which the imputed underpayment relates.

“(ii) RULE IN CASE OF VARIED TREATMENT OF ITEMS AMONG PARTNERS.—If the imputed underpayment is attributable to the adjustment of more than 1 item, and any partner's distributive share of such items is not the same with respect to all such items, then the portion of the imputed underpayment to which the lower rate applies with respect to

a partner under subparagraph (A) shall be determined by reference to the amount which would have been the partner's distributive share of net gain or loss if the partnership had sold all of its assets at their fair market value as of the close of the reviewed year of the partnership.

“(5) OTHER PROCEDURES FOR MODIFICATION OF IMPUTED UNDERPAYMENT.—The Secretary may by regulations or guidance provide for additional procedures to modify imputed underpayment amounts on the basis of such other factors as the Secretary determines are necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection.

“(6) YEAR AND DAY FOR SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY.—Anything required to be submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than the close of the 270-day period beginning on the date on which the notice of a proposed partnership adjustment is mailed under section 6231 unless such period is extended with the consent of the Secretary.

“(7) DECISION OF SECRETARY.—Any modification of the imputed underpayment amount under this subsection shall be made only upon approval of such modification by the Secretary.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subchapter—

“(1) REVIEWED YEAR.—The term ‘reviewed year’ means the partnership taxable year to which the item being adjusted relates.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT YEAR.—The term ‘adjustment year’ means the partnership taxable year in which—

“(A) in the case of an adjustment pursuant to the decision of a court in a proceeding brought under section 6234, such decision becomes final,

“(B) in the case of an administrative adjustment request under section 6227, such administrative adjustment request is made, or

“(C) in any other case, notice of the final partnership adjustment is mailed under section 6231.

“SEC. 6226. ALTERNATIVE TO PAYMENT OF IMPUTED UNDERPAYMENT BY PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If the partnership—

“(1) not later than 45 days after the date of the notice of final partnership adjustment, elects the application of this section with respect to an imputed underpayment, and

“(2) at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide, furnishes to each partner of the partnership for the reviewed year and to the Secretary a statement of the partner's share of any adjustment to income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit (as determined in the notice of final partnership adjustment),

section 6225 shall not apply with respect to such underpayment and each such partner shall take such adjustment into account as provided in subsection (b). The election under paragraph (1) shall be made in such manner as the Secretary may provide and, once made, shall be revocable only with the consent of the Secretary.

“(b) ADJUSTMENTS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY PARTNER.—

“(1) TAX IMPOSED IN YEAR OF STATEMENT.—Each partner's tax imposed by chapter 1 for the taxable year which includes the date the statement was furnished under subsection (a) shall be increased by the aggregate of the adjustment amounts determined under paragraph (2) for the taxable years referred to therein.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT AMOUNTS.—The adjustment amounts determined under this paragraph are—

“(A) in the case of the taxable year of the partner which includes the end of the reviewed year, the amount by which the tax

imposed under chapter 1 would increase if the partner's share of the adjustments described in subsection (a) were taken into account for such taxable year, plus

“(B) in the case of any taxable year after the taxable year referred to in subparagraph (A) and before the taxable year referred to in paragraph (1), the amount by which the tax imposed under chapter 1 would increase by reason of the adjustment to tax attributes under paragraph (3).

“(3) ADJUSTMENT OF TAX ATTRIBUTES.—Any tax attribute which would have been affected if the adjustments described in subsection (a) were taken into account for the taxable year referred to in paragraph (2)(A) shall—

“(A) in the case of any taxable year referred to in paragraph (2)(B), be appropriately adjusted for purposes of applying such paragraph, and

“(B) in the case of any subsequent taxable year, be appropriately adjusted.

“(c) PENALTIES AND INTEREST.—

“(1) PENALTIES.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), any penalties, additions to tax, or additional amount shall be determined as provided under section 6221 and the partners of the partnership for the reviewed year shall be liable for any such penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount.

“(2) INTEREST.—In the case of an imputed underpayment with respect to which the application of this section is elected, interest shall be determined—

“(A) at the partner level,

“(B) from the due date of the return for the taxable year to which the increase is attributable (determined by taking into account any increases attributable to a change in tax attributes for a taxable year under subsection (b)(2)), and

“(C) at the underpayment rate under section 6621(a)(2), determined by substituting ‘5 percentage points’ for ‘3 percentage points’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“SEC. 6227. ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT REQUEST BY PARTNERSHIP.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A partnership may file a request for an administrative adjustment in the amount of one or more items of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of the partnership for any partnership taxable year.

“(b) ADJUSTMENT.—Any such adjustment under subsection (a) shall be determined and taken into account for the partnership taxable year in which the administrative adjustment request is made—

“(1) by the partnership under rules similar to the rules of section 6225 (other than paragraphs (2), (6) and (7) of subsection (c) thereof) for the partnership taxable year in which the administrative adjustment request is made, or

“(2) by the partnership and partners under rules similar to the rules of section 6226 (determined without regard to the substitution described in subsection (c)(2)(C) thereof). In the case of an adjustment that would not result in an imputed underpayment, paragraph (1) shall not apply and paragraph (2) shall apply with appropriate adjustments.

“(c) PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS.—A partnership may not file such a request more than 3 years after the later of—

“(1) the date on which the partnership return for such year is filed, or

“(2) the last day for filing the partnership return for such year (determined without regard to extensions).

In no event may a partnership file such a request after a notice of an administrative proceeding with respect to the taxable year is mailed under section 6231.

“PART 1—PROCEDURE

“Sec. 6231. Notice of proceedings and adjustment.

“Sec. 6232. Assessment, collection, and payment.

“Sec. 6233. Interest and penalties.

“Sec. 6234. Judicial review of partnership adjustment.

“Sec. 6235. Period of limitations on making adjustments.

“SEC. 6231. NOTICE OF PROCEEDINGS AND ADJUSTMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall mail to the partnership and the partnership representative—

“(1) notice of any administrative proceeding initiated at the partnership level with respect to an adjustment of any item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a partnership for a partnership taxable year, or any partner's distributive share thereof,

“(2) notice of any proposed partnership adjustment resulting from such proceeding, and

“(3) notice of any final partnership adjustment resulting from such proceeding.

Any notice of a final partnership adjustment shall not be mailed earlier than 270 days after the date on which the notice of the proposed partnership adjustment is mailed. Such notices shall be sufficient if mailed to the last known address of the partnership representative or the partnership (even if the partnership has terminated its existence). The first sentence shall apply to any proceeding with respect to an administrative adjustment request filed by a partnership under section 6227.

“(b) FURTHER NOTICES RESTRICTED.—If the Secretary mails a notice of a final partnership adjustment to any partnership for any partnership taxable year and the partnership files a petition under section 6234 with respect to such notice, in the absence of a showing of fraud, malfeasance, or misrepresentation of a material fact, the Secretary shall not mail another such notice to such partnership with respect to such taxable year.

“(c) AUTHORITY TO RESCIND NOTICE WITH PARTNERSHIP CONSENT.—The Secretary may, with the consent of the partnership, rescind any notice of a partnership adjustment mailed to such partnership. Any notice so rescinded shall not be treated as a notice of a partnership adjustment for purposes of this subchapter, and the taxpayer shall have no right to bring a proceeding under section 6234 with respect to such notice.

“SEC. 6232. ASSESSMENT, COLLECTION, AND PAYMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any imputed underpayment shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as if it were a tax imposed for the adjustment year by subtitle A, except that in the case of an administrative adjustment request to which section 6227(b)(1) applies, the underpayment shall be paid when the request is filed.

“(b) LIMITATION ON ASSESSMENT.—Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no assessment of a deficiency may be made (and no levy or proceeding in any court for the collection of any amount resulting from such adjustment may be made, begun or prosecuted) before—

“(1) the close of the 90th day after the day on which a notice of a final partnership adjustment was mailed, and

“(2) if a petition is filed under section 6234 with respect to such notice, the decision of the court has become final.

“(c) PREMATURE ACTION MAY BE ENJOINED.—Notwithstanding section 7421(a), any action which violates subsection (b) may be enjoined in the proper court, including the Tax Court. The Tax Court shall have no jurisdiction to enjoin any action under this subsection unless a timely petition has been filed under section 6234 and then only in respect of the adjustments that are the subject of such petition.

“(d) EXCEPTIONS TO RESTRICTIONS ON ADJUSTMENTS.—

“(1) ADJUSTMENTS ARISING OUT OF MATH OR CLERICAL ERRORS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the partnership is notified that, on account of a mathematical or clerical error appearing on the partnership return, an adjustment to a item is required, rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 6213(b) shall apply to such adjustment.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If a partnership is a partner in another partnership, any adjustment on account of such partnership's failure to comply with the requirements of section 6222(a) with respect to its interest in such other partnership shall be treated as an adjustment referred to in subparagraph (A), except that paragraph (2) of section 6213(b) shall not apply to such adjustment.

“(2) PARTNERSHIP MAY WAIVE RESTRICTIONS.—The partnership may at any time (whether or not any notice of partnership adjustment has been issued), by a signed notice in writing filed with the Secretary, waive the restrictions provided in subsection (b) on the making of any partnership adjustment.

“(e) LIMIT WHERE NO PROCEEDING BEGUN.—If no proceeding under section 6234 is begun with respect to any notice of a final partnership adjustment during the 90-day period described in subsection (b) thereof, the amount for which the partnership is liable under section 6225 shall not exceed the amount determined in accordance with such notice.

“SEC. 6233. INTEREST AND PENALTIES.

“(a) INTEREST AND PENALTIES DETERMINED FROM REVIEWED YEAR.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except to the extent provided in section 6226(c), in the case of a partnership adjustment for a reviewed year—

“(A) interest shall be computed under paragraph (2), and

“(B) the partnership shall be liable for any penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount as provided in paragraph (3).

“(2) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT OF INTEREST.—The interest computed under this paragraph with respect to any partnership adjustment is the interest which would be determined under chapter 67 for the period beginning on the day after the return due date for the reviewed year and ending on the return due date for the adjustment year (or, if earlier, the date payment of the imputed underpayment is made). Proper adjustments in the amount determined under the preceding sentence shall be made for adjustments required for partnership taxable years after the reviewed year and before the adjustment year by reason of such partnership adjustment.

“(3) PENALTIES.—Any penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount shall be determined at the partnership level as if such partnership had been an individual subject to tax under chapter 1 for the reviewed year and the imputed underpayment were an actual underpayment (or understatement) for such year.

“(b) INTEREST AND PENALTIES WITH RESPECT TO ADJUSTMENT YEAR RETURN.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any failure to pay an imputed underpayment on the date prescribed therefor, the partnership shall be liable—

“(A) for interest as determined under paragraph (2), and

“(B) for any penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount as determined under paragraph (3).

“(2) INTEREST.—Interest determined under this paragraph is the interest that would be determined by treating the imputed underpayment as an underpayment of tax imposed in the adjustment year.

“(3) PENALTIES.—Penalties, additions to tax, or additional amounts determined under

this paragraph are the penalties, additions to tax, or additional amounts that would be determined—

“(A) by applying section 6651(a)(2) to such failure to pay, and

“(B) by treating the imputed underpayment as an underpayment of tax for purposes of part II of subchapter A of chapter 68.

“SEC. 6234. JUDICIAL REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Within 90 days after the date on which a notice of a final partnership adjustment is mailed under section 6231 with respect to any partnership taxable year, the partnership may file a petition for a readjustment for such taxable year with—

“(1) the Tax Court,

“(2) the district court of the United States for the district in which the partnership's principal place of business is located, or

“(3) the Claims Court.

“(b) JURISDICTIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR BRINGING ACTION IN DISTRICT COURT OR CLAIMS COURT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A readjustment petition under this section may be filed in a district court of the United States or the Claims Court only if the partnership filing the petition deposits with the Secretary, on or before the date the petition is filed, the amount of the imputed underpayment (as of the date of the filing of the petition) if the partnership adjustment was made as provided by the notice of final partnership adjustment. The court may by order provide that the jurisdictional requirements of this paragraph are satisfied where there has been a good faith attempt to satisfy such requirement and any shortfall of the amount required to be deposited is timely corrected.

“(2) INTEREST PAYABLE.—Any amount deposited under paragraph (1), while deposited, shall not be treated as a payment of tax for purposes of this title (other than chapter 67).

“(c) SCOPE OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.—A court with which a petition is filed in accordance with this section shall have jurisdiction to determine all items of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of the partnership for the partnership taxable year to which the notice of final partnership adjustment relates, the proper allocation of such items among the partners, and the applicability of any penalty, addition to tax, or additional amount for which the partnership may be liable under this subchapter.

“(d) DETERMINATION OF COURT REVIEWABLE.—Any determination by a court under this section shall have the force and effect of a decision of the Tax Court or a final judgment or decree of the district court or the Claims Court, as the case may be, and shall be reviewable as such. The date of any such determination shall be treated as being the date of the court's order entering the decision.

“(e) EFFECT OF DECISION DISMISSING ACTION.—If an action brought under this section is dismissed other than by reason of a rescission under section 6231(c), the decision of the court dismissing the action shall be considered as its decision that the notice of final partnership adjustment is correct, and an appropriate order shall be entered in the records of the court.

“SEC. 6235. PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS ON MAKING ADJUSTMENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, no adjustment under this subpart for any partnership taxable year may be made after the later of—

“(1) the date which is 3 years after the latest of—

“(A) the date on which the partnership return for such taxable year was filed,

“(B) the return due date for the taxable year, or

“(C) the date on which the partnership filed an administrative adjustment request with respect to such year under section 6227, or

“(2) in the case of any modification of an imputed underpayment under section 6225(c), the date that is 270 days (plus the number of days of any extension consented to by the Secretary under paragraph (4) thereof) after the date on which everything required to be submitted to the Secretary pursuant to such section is so submitted, or

“(3) in the case of any notice of a proposed partnership adjustment under section 6231(a)(2), the date that is 270 days after the date of such notice.

“(b) EXTENSION BY AGREEMENT.—The period described in subsection (a) (including an extension period under this subsection) may be extended by an agreement entered into by the Secretary and the partnership before the expiration of such period.

“(c) SPECIAL RULE IN CASE OF FRAUD, ETC.—

“(1) FALSE RETURN.—In the case of a false or fraudulent partnership return with intent to evade tax, the adjustment may be made at any time.

“(2) SUBSTANTIAL OMISSION OF INCOME.—If any partnership omits from gross income an amount properly includible therein and such amount is described in section 6501(e)(1)(A), subsection (a) shall be applied by substituting ‘6 years’ for ‘3 years’.

“(3) NO RETURN.—In the case of a failure by a partnership to file a return for any taxable year, the adjustment may be made at any time.

“(4) RETURN FILED BY SECRETARY.—For purposes of this section, a return executed by the Secretary under subsection (b) of section 6020 on behalf of the partnership shall not be treated as a return of the partnership.

“(d) SUSPENSION WHEN SECRETARY MAILS NOTICE OF ADJUSTMENT.—If notice of a final partnership adjustment with respect to any taxable year is mailed under section 6231, the running of the period specified in subsection (a) (as modified by the other provisions of this section) shall be suspended—

“(1) for the period during which an action may be brought under section 6234 (and, if a petition is filed under such section with respect to such notice, until the decision of the court becomes final), and

“(2) for 1 year thereafter.

“PART 2—DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES

“Sec. 6241. Definitions and special rules.

“SEC. 6241. DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL RULES.

“For purposes of this subchapter—

“(1) PARTNERSHIP.—The term ‘partnership’ means any partnership required to file a return under section 6031(a).

“(2) PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT.—The term ‘partnership adjustment’ means any adjustment in the amount of any item of income, gain, loss, deduction, or credit of a partnership, or any partner's distributive share thereof.

“(3) RETURN DUE DATE.—The term ‘return due date’ means, with respect to the taxable year, the date prescribed for filing the partnership return for such taxable year (determined without regard to extensions).

“(4) PAYMENTS NONDEDUCTIBLE.—No deduction shall be allowed under subtitle A for any payment required to be made by a partnership under this subchapter.

“(5) PARTNERSHIPS HAVING PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS OUTSIDE UNITED STATES.—For purposes of sections 6234, a principal place of business located outside the United States shall be treated as located in the District of Columbia.

“(6) PARTNERSHIPS IN CASES UNDER TITLE 11 OF UNITED STATES CODE.—

“(A) SUSPENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATIONS ON MAKING ADJUSTMENT, ASSESSMENT, OR COLLECTION.—The running of any period of limitations provided in this subchapter on making a partnership adjustment (or provided by section 6501 or 6502 on the assessment or collection of any imputed underpayment determined under this subchapter) shall, in a case under title 11 of the United States Code, be suspended during the period during which the Secretary is prohibited by reason of such case from making the adjustment (or assessment or collection) and—

“(i) for adjustment or assessment, 60 days thereafter, and

“(ii) for collection, 6 months thereafter.

A rule similar to the rule of section 6213(f)(2) shall apply for purposes of section 6232(b).

“(B) SUSPENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATION FOR FILING FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW.—The running of the period specified in section 6234 shall, in a case under title 11 of the United States Code, be suspended during the period during which the partnership is prohibited by reason of such case from filing a petition under section 6234 and for 60 days thereafter.

“(7) TREATMENT WHERE PARTNERSHIP CEASES TO EXIST.—If a partnership ceases to exist before a partnership adjustment under this subchapter takes effect, such adjustment shall be taken into account by the former partners of such partnership under regulations prescribed by the Secretary.

“(8) EXTENSION TO ENTITIES FILING PARTNERSHIP RETURN.—If a partnership return is filed by an entity for a taxable year but it is determined that the entity is not a partnership (or that there is no entity) for such year, then, to the extent provided in regulations, the provisions of this subchapter are hereby extended in respect of such year to such entity and its items and to persons holding an interest in such entity.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of subchapters for chapter 63 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by the preceding provisions of this section, is amended by inserting after the item relating to subchapter B the following new item:

“SUBCHAPTER C. TREATMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS.”

(d) BINDING NATURE OF PARTNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT PROCEEDINGS.—Section 6330(c)(4) of such Code is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “; or”, and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) a final determination has been made with respect to such issue in a proceeding brought under subchapter C of chapter 63.”

(e) RESTRICTION ON AUTHORITY TO AMEND PARTNER INFORMATION STATEMENTS.—Section 6031(b) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following: “Except as provided in the procedures under section 6225(c), with respect to statements under section 6226, or as otherwise provided by the Secretary, information required to be furnished by the partnership under this subsection may not be amended after the due date of the return under subsection (a) to which such information relates.”

(f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 6031(b) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(2) Section 6422 of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (12).

(3) Section 6501(n) of such Code is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and by striking “CROSS REFERENCES” and all that follows through “For period of limitations” and inserting “CROSS REFERENCE.—For period of limitations”.

(4) Section 6503(a)(1) of such Code is amended by striking “(or section 6229)” and all that follows through “of section 6230(a))”.

(5) Section 6504 of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (11).

(6) Section 6511 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (g).

(7) Section 6512(b)(3) of such Code is amended by striking the second sentence.

(8) Section 6515 of such Code is amended by striking paragraph (6).

(9) Section 6601(c) of such Code is amended by striking the last sentence.

(10) Section 7421(a) of such Code is amended by striking “6225(b), 6246(b)” and inserting “6232(c)”.

(11) Section 7422 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (h).

(12) Section 7459(c) of such Code is amended by striking “section 6226” and all that follows through “or 6252” and inserting “section 6234”.

(13) Section 7482(b)(1) of such Code is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “section 6226, 6228, 6247, or 6252” and inserting “section 6234”;

(B) by striking subparagraph (F), by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (E) and inserting a period, and by inserting “or” at the end of subparagraph (D), and

(C) in the last sentence, by striking “section 6226, 6228(a), or 6234(c)” and inserting “section 6234”.

(14) Section 7485(b) of such Code is amended by striking “section 6226, 6228(a), 6247, or 6252” and inserting “section 6234”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the amendments made by this section shall apply to returns filed for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT REQUESTS.—In the case of administrative adjustment request under section 6227 of such Code, the amendments made by this section shall apply to requests with respect to returns filed for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

(3) ADJUSTED PARTNERS STATEMENTS.—In the case of a partnership electing the application of section 6226 of such Code, the amendments made by this section shall apply to elections with respect to returns filed for partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

(4) ELECTION.—A partnership may elect (at such time and in such form and manner as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe) for the amendments made by this section (other than the election under section 6221(b) of such Code (as added by this Act)) to apply to any return of the partnership filed for partnership taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2018.

SEC. 1102. PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS CREATED BY GIFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 761(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following: “In the case of a capital interest in a partnership in which capital is a material income-producing factor, whether a person is a partner with respect to such interest shall be determined without regard to whether such interest was derived by gift from any other person.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 704(e) of such Code is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively,

(2) by striking “this section” in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated) and inserting “this subsection”, and

(3) by striking “FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS” in the heading and inserting “PARTNERSHIP INTERESTS CREATED BY GIFT”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to partnership taxable years beginning after December 31, 2015.

TITLE XII—DESIGNATION OF SMALL HOUSE ROTUNDA

SEC. 1201. DESIGNATING SMALL HOUSE ROTUNDA AS “FREEDOM FOYER”.

The first floor of the area of the House of Representatives wing of the United States Capitol known as the small House rotunda is designated the “Freedom Foyer”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 495, the motion shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the majority leader and the minority leader or their designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the further consideration of H.R. 1314, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to present the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1314, the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015, an agreement that helps advance this Nation toward our goals of fiscal stability, strong national security, and entitlement reform.

These are goals that we have been advocating for years, ones that will secure significant long-term savings, provide our economy with the certainty needed to grow and prosper, and ensure the readiness of our military to meet current and emerging threats.

First, this agreement prevents the economic damage of a default, which could happen as early as next week, by suspending the debt limit through March 2017.

Next, the agreement includes the first significant reform to Social Security since 1983. These structural reforms will help maintain the solvency of vital Social Security trust funds by closing loopholes, increasing program integrity, and cracking down on fraud, resulting in \$168 billion in long-term savings. The agreement also finds savings in other mandatory programs, including over \$30 billion in Medicare entitlement savings.

As I have said many, many times before—and I have heard it said many times by others here on the floor—mandatory and entitlement programs make up two-thirds of the Nation's budget and are the primary drivers of

our deficits and our debt. In fact, we have saved \$195 billion on discretionary spending in these last 4 years. In the meantime, the entitlement-mandatory side of the budget continues to zoom skyward.

Reforms to these programs are necessary and overdue, and I hope that this bill today paves the way for additional action in the future.

This bill also repeals a flawed provision of the President's healthcare law, eliminating the automatic enrollment mandate that forces workers into employer-sponsored healthcare coverage that they may not want or need.

Finally—and, in my opinion, most importantly—this agreement provides for new top-line spending caps for the next 2 years. This will roll back the harmful, automatic, meat-ax approach of sequestration cuts which gut important Federal programs and slice the good with the bad, including slicing into our military strength.

A 2-year plan, why is that so important? Well, it provides much-needed certainty to the appropriations process and to the Defense Department and all the other agencies of the government, ensuring our ability to make thoughtful, responsible funding decisions over that time.

Having established agreed-upon, top-line numbers for both fiscal 2016 and 2017 will allow Congress to do its work on behalf of the American people and avoid a harmful government shutdown or the threat thereof. This is particularly crucial when it comes to our national security. It provides the Pentagon with the certainty needed to plan for the future, maintain readiness, and provide for our troops.

These adjustments are fully offset by mandatory spending cuts and other savings, not through tax increases, as the administration proposed in its budget submission earlier this year.

These new levels do not undermine our remarkable success in limiting Federal discretionary spending. Since 2011, as I have said before, we have reduced discretionary spending—that is what we appropriate here on the floor—by \$175 billion. We remain on track to save taxpayers more than \$2 trillion if you extrapolate those numbers through 2024.

With passage of this important agreement, my committee stands ready, coiled, poised to implement the details of this deal, going line by line through budgets and making the tough, but necessary, decisions to fund the entire government in a responsible way.

We will begin work with our Senate counterparts as soon as this bill is signed.

We have our eye on the December 11 deadline, and it is my goal to complete our appropriations work ahead of that date to avoid any more delays, continuing resolutions, or shutdown showdowns that hurt important Federal programs, our economy, and, coincidentally, the trust of the people in the Congress.

I want to thank and commend our leaders for their courage, their tenacity, and their resolve. While I know that this deal is not perfect, there are things I would change if I had the chance. The process by which it emerged is less than ideal. I believe, still, it is in the best interest of the country that we move forward with this arrangement.

This agreement takes steps in the right direction, from finding savings in our entitlement programs to protecting our economy from a dangerous default, to providing for the future of the Nation through funding certainty.

These are goals that I believe we can all get behind. So I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan agreement today.

I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to start by joining the comments of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, Mr. ROGERS, in congratulating all those who came together to iron out their differences and produce this agreement.

It is not a perfect agreement, but it is far better than the alternative, the alternative which we would have seen which would have produced great damage to the economy, as opposed to this agreement, which will help boost economic growth and make important national investments.

What a difference a week makes, Madam Speaker. Just last week, we had on the floor of this House a bill that would have jeopardized the full faith and credit of the United States. It was a piece of legislation that says the United States Government only has to pay some of its bills, doesn't have to pay all of its bills. That would have been an awful precedent that would have put the economy at risk.

Even worse, it said, well, when we decide which bills we are going to pay, we are first going to pay all the bondholders, like China and the folks on Wall Street, rather than our soldiers and our veterans and the doctors who provide Medicare to our seniors. I am glad we have gotten beyond that, Madam Speaker.

This will ensure the full faith and credit of the United States. It will also lift the very damaging sequester caps that have been put in place that, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, were going to slow down economic growth over the next couple years.

Instead, we are going to be able to make some vital investments in key areas: in education, in scientific research, in transportation, and in military readiness. Now, I know those decisions are going to be left to Mr. ROGERS and the appropriators, and I wish them all the best in making those decisions. I hope we come back by mid-De-

cember with an agreement to go forward without further threats of government shutdown.

This agreement at least provides the room and space to make those important investments. It also prevents a looming 20 percent cut in Social Security disability benefits and provides that reassurance to millions of Americans who otherwise would have been on the edge.

It prevents what would have been a whopping increase in Medicare part B premiums for millions of seniors around this country, who would have been stretched extremely thin and probably not been able to make all their payments—whether they were mortgage payments, rent payments, or food payments—at the same time they were facing those huge Medicare part B premium increases. So that was addressed as well.

Now, like Mr. ROGERS, there are lots of things that I would like to have seen in this bill that are not included; but on balance, this is an important step forward, certainly a great improvement over where we were just a week ago.

So, again, I want to express my gratitude to everybody who helped make this possible.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), the distinguished chairman of the House Committee on Rules.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, last night in the Committee on Rules we looked at this bill. We talked about it and its importance to the Nation.

Madam Speaker, first let me say that this is an agreement between the White House, the Senate, and the House. This is an agreement that we can move forward on and avoid many destructive things that might have happened not only to the American people and the economy, but, really, our own credibility. Our ability to work together at this very careful time is important so that we show the American people that this can happen.

There are a lot of things that I agree and disagree with that were said. First of all, harm the economy? Good gosh, when you only have a 1 percent GDP growth, the President has already done that with massive tax increases. The President has done that with rules and regulations. We are trying to make sure that what we are doing in this bill is to stick to the Republican plan.

What is the Republican plan? It has been—going into our sixth year—that we are going to hold government spending flat. We do that essentially not only with a CR, which we will do again in a few weeks, but through effective use of sequestration. What we have done is been able to take the sequestration dollars and to utilize them in such a way that, as the chairman was speaking about, we are pulling in mandatory spending.

We believe, after 5 years of staying flat with government spending, that we are in a more dangerous world than ever, and our military must have more money, our security operations must have more money. What we are going to do is to look at the entire process, come up with an idea about bringing in more money that funds our security, that funds our military, and offsets that so that we can do this by looking at long-term mandatory spending that will bring in over 170 billion dollars' worth of savings over the mirror that we look at, over the timeframe that is important for the American people to have confidence that we will not bankrupt this country and that we can continue.

Now, the bottom line to this whole exercise is that what we have done is worked together. Working together, we now have a plan to move forward; and we will simply go to the next exercise, and that is funding the government for the year.

The Republican plan is simple. We are not going to give this government one extra penny to put us into a bankruptcy circumstance, but we are asking also, back, that the President of the United States give us an opportunity to grow our economy. Taxes are too high, and we have too many rules and regulations; but the Republican Party will stick to our plan, and that is what we are doing here.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, first and foremost, this bill takes the important step of protecting the full faith and credit of the United States. We will pay our obligations—and not only to foreign bondholders, but to our citizens, whether veterans or our children—unlike the Republican majority bill last week.

It protects millions of seniors from a 50 percent increase in their monthly Medicare part B premiums and spreads out the cost of paying for the fix over a number of years. It ensures that all 11 million Americans that rely on Social Security disability insurance won't see their benefits cut by 20 percent. It is fiscally responsible, while not undermining or changing the structure of vital programs in any way.

Let me repeat that. It is fiscally responsible, while not undermining or changing the structure of vital programs in any way.

It ensures, in Social Security, a uniform national process for disability evaluations, and it closes a loophole used mostly by higher income individuals to receive higher Social Security benefits than intended. It regularizes payments in Medicare for care given in outpatient facilities.

Finally, the agreement raises the spending caps for 2 years for domestic

spending, not only for defense priorities, as some have earlier proposed. I just want to repeat that so it is clear. The agreement raises the spending caps for 2 years for both domestic and defense spending. That means we can better fund critical domestic programs that were cut under sequestration, increasing support for education, health research, food safety, job training, and health care for veterans.

This was a product of a lot of effort, of Members, of staff in various committees, the leadership on a bipartisan basis working with the administration. I just want to leave expressing my support and expressing we will truly have a broad, bipartisan vote for this bill today.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I will be brief.

I rise in support of the agreement before us this afternoon.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues are aware, the Department of Defense and the intelligence community have borne the brunt of our efforts to reduce the budget deficit and control our burgeoning national debt. Under the Budget Control Act of 2011, roughly half of all the discretionary spending reductions were taken from programs in the national security area.

My colleagues, 2011 was a different time. The security environment has changed significantly. Since that time, threats from terrorist groups and nation-states have risen dramatically. The security spending reductions envisioned 4 years ago seem extremely unwise and dangerous today.

In this agreement, the Department of Defense will receive additional resources, badly needed resources: \$30 billion this year, and \$15 billion next year. But almost more important, this agreement gives the Pentagon and our intelligence community predictability, certainty, the ability to organize and plan its activities for 2 years. It also gives our soldiers and their families a degree of certainty that they will be supported as they do the work of freedom.

Senior leaders of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines—and the Department itself—will now be able to plan as to how they will configure, equip, train, sustain, and deploy our forces in the most effective and efficient manner possible. This ability will result in budget savings and a more effective fighting force.

Madam Speaker, this agreement is by no means perfect, but this agreement does require support because it provides predictable funding for our Nation's security at a time of changing and growing defense. Every Member ought to support it.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman

from the great State of Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), the very distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

I am very encouraged that this agreement includes provisions from my bill, H.R. 2391, the Medicaid Generic Drug Price Fairness Act, which I introduced back on May 18. My legislation requires generic drug manufacturers to provide rebates to Medicaid when they raise prices faster than the rate of inflation.

My legislation will help Americans get lifesaving prescriptions they need. It will save \$1 billion over 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Just this morning, the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation issued a report finding that this issue, the skyrocketing prices of prescription drugs, is the number one healthcare priority for the American people. The report found that 77 percent of those surveyed, including Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, identified the issue as their top health concern overall.

This legislation is a strong and welcome step to help keep drugs affordable, but we must do more. We need to investigate drug companies that are taking advantage of the American people by jacking up their prices just to boost corporate profits and make their executives rich.

Over the past month, press reports have been filled with almost daily accounts of drug company executives trying to justify the obscene price increases while lining their pockets. My colleagues may have heard about the so-called “pharma bro” Martin Shkreli, who increased the price of a drug that treats life-threatening infections from about \$14 to \$750 overnight. He then called his price gouging “a great thing for society.”

My colleagues also may have heard about Michael Pearson, the CEO of Valeant Pharmaceuticals, which increased the prices of two drugs used to treat heart failure and hypertension by 212 percent and 525 percent on the same day it acquired them. This company is currently obstructing congressional oversight and refusing to provide documents relating to its increases.

I am very pleased to support this budget bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

□ 1600

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. THORNBERRY), the distinguished chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Mr. THORNBERRY. Madam Speaker, if one takes into account the effects of inflation, we cut our military budget 21 percent from 2010 to 2014.

Madam Speaker, I think everybody in this body will acknowledge the

world is not 21 percent safer today than it was just 4 years ago.

As a matter of fact, if you look around the world, whether it is the growth of ISIS into more countries or the continued challenge of al Qaeda and its various affiliates, to the morass of Syria with historic Russian re-insertion today, to China building islands in the South Pacific, to North Korea's saber rattling, to Iran intentionally violating an agreement it made on its missile testing just after the U.S. ratified the nuclear deal, to daily cyber attacks, the world is growing increasingly dangerous.

Into that danger we send men and women who wear the uniform of the United States to meet that danger. Yet, we cut their budget 21 percent.

We saw last week the President of the United States used them as a political bargaining chip to try to force Congress to comply with his domestic agenda.

The bottom line for me, Madam Speaker, is our troops deserve better than that. That is the reason I support this Bipartisan Budget Act of 2014. It stops the cuts in defense.

It increases the money going to our troops. It prevents them from being used as a bargaining chip in the future because it sets the military budget for fiscal year 2016 and fiscal year 2017 so that that is decided. They can't be used as leverage for some other agenda. I think that is the sort of stability and predictability they need and that they deserve.

I think the great question, Madam Speaker, is: If not this, then what?

We know that this budget agreement at least comes close to meeting what the President has asked for on defense and comes close to the Congressional budget, within \$5 billion.

Now, that is not enough money to repair all the damage that has been done over the past 5 years, but it is in the ballpark. If we do not approve this budget, then what?

Well, then we are back to continuing resolutions and sequester, which means, for example, the Army has said they will have to cut another 40,000 troops out of their ranks on top of the 70,000 they have already cut.

Now, that is just a sampling of what not passing this bill could well mean. If we go back to CRs and the sequester level, it would be drastic reductions to the military, a much less safe world for the United States and its interests.

I believe that this measure, on that basis alone, deserves our support.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I agree with the gentleman that the investments in military readiness are important. I also believe the investments to help our economy grow and invest in education and scientific research are important.

What the President said to the Congress is what the vast majority of the American public believed, that it is

vital to have a strong national defense. But a strong national defense requires a strong economy. It requires an educated workforce. It requires investments in innovation and technology. It requires a 21st century infrastructure.

So I am pleased that the President insisted that we make investments not just in the military, but also vital investments to help the economy grow, grow more jobs, which are estimated to be in the range of 350,000 in 2016 alone. So those are vital investments that also help strengthen America.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY), somebody who has been on the front lines of making those important investments for our country, the very distinguished ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mrs. LOWEY. Madam Speaker, as ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, I rise to support this bipartisan legislation that ensures the full faith and credit of the United States and sets a path to a responsible appropriations process this year and next.

Since the beginning of this year's appropriations process, Democrats have called for relief from damaging, austerity-level budget caps so Congress can invest in our Nation's future.

Unfortunately, the majority's budget resolution and appropriation bills would have strangled economic growth and not met our Nation's needs with cuts to Pell Grants that help families pay college tuition and law enforcement grants, for example. The list goes on and on.

From the start of the appropriations process, I urged my majority colleagues to negotiate reasonable spending caps that protect our economy and national priorities.

I am pleased these talks finally happened and resulted in this bipartisan package that provides an additional \$40 billion for defense, \$40 billion for non-defense, over 2 years. These investments are critical.

Upon its passage, I look forward to working together in a similarly responsible manner to reach bipartisan consensus on the spending bills to avoid a government shutdown in mid-December.

I urge passage of this bill so we can immediately begin our appropriations work, already overdue.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, may I inquire of the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Kentucky has 15½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Maryland has 19 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. I thank the chairman.

Madam Speaker, I, in essence, only want to make four brief points. Num-

ber one is that, I, too, have concerns with lots of parts of this bill. There are parts that I wish were different. I think all of us do. But there are a number of reasons why I think it is important that we move forward on this legislation.

Number one, this helps avoid a devastating hit to senior citizens in the district that I represent and, frankly, senior citizens across the entire country that deserve to be protected by those of us that represent them up here in Washington.

Number two, when we are able to move forward on the appropriations process, which this legislation will allow us to do, that is a way that allows every Member of this House to have input. Every Member of this House has been part of that process.

So for those of us who believe in regular order and inclusiveness and in making sure that every Member has a word and a say as to how we move forward, this bill will allow us to move forward on that very open process.

Lastly—and we have heard this before—it is no secret that the world has gotten a lot more dangerous, and you have heard the numbers. We are devastating our military at a time when we are asking them to do more and more and when the world is becoming more and more dangerous.

So let me just leave with this last, final point. Are we going to allow our military to continue to receive cuts at a time when they should actually be helped and should actually have increased spending or are we going to permit the devastating of our men and women in uniform, of the U.S. military, at this time in our history?

My dear friends, I, for one, am not going to sit back, if I can do anything about it, and allow the U.S. military to be devastated by more budget cuts.

So, therefore, I respectfully urge a "yes" vote on this legislation.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON), a distinguished member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

I plan on voting for this bill, but I am not here to pound and celebrate that.

It does things that are good. It lifts the debt ceiling and puts us in a position where we don't have to fear defaulting on America's debts. It avoids ruinous cuts in Medicare part B, and disability insurance benefit cuts won't go down.

But the fact is no one here, no one in this room, can say that this piece of legislation that we are looking at now is going to advance America, bring us progress that we actually really need.

Do you know that, since 2012, we have seen 640 fewer National Institutes of Health grants? We haven't been making the investments we need in embassy security, housing, health care, education. We are not advancing America.

This is not a progress budget. This is a survival budget. And we need to survive; so, I'm going to vote for this piece of legislation.

But we must come to the moment in time when we are looking to advance our country, to move forward and offer real leadership to the world, rather than just obsessing over how much we can cut and how much we can take.

The fact is that the Progressive Caucus offered a budget. It meets our minimal conditions, but it doesn't advance our real progress that we need.

We have principles that we have been talking about that are about pushing this country forward: child nutrition, affordable care, college education, housing, transit. This is what is going to make our country strong.

This budget keeps us above water, keeps us from defaulting on our debts, and that is a good thing. But can't we do more?

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I am a member of the majority.

When the majority brings a bill to the floor, you normally start off with "yes" and hope to stay there. In this case, I started off with "likely" and didn't arrive at a "yes." So, reluctantly, I am going to vote "no" on this bill.

I am not going to vote "no" because of what it seeks to do. I am certainly not going to vote "no" knowing that we need to fund our troops in the field in a war that has dragged on for 15 years and now has re-ignited.

But I am going to vote "no" because of how this bill is paid for. I have done as much as I can as long as I can to tolerate how we "score" things.

At the risk of being wrong, I will remind people that I am only as good as the information that my staff has given me. But according to CBO, \$2.5 billion worth of this pay-for comes from premium payments that are accelerated, meaning we are robbing from the future to pay for today.

Another one comes from extended pension smoothing, \$9 billion. This is a time-shifting on money over 10 years. Again, we are robbing from the future to pay for this year.

Another one, \$4 billion, comes from Social Security disability. But it is a double count. It has already been scored elsewhere previously.

And \$5 billion comes from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. This will be the third time this year that we have brought a bill saying we are going to sell this oil at its low price.

Ultimately, the real question is: Aren't we selling off an asset today to pay for current expenses?

\$3.5 billion will come from FCC bandwidth sales. I can live with that. I'm not thrilled with it. I think we should make more bandwidth available to the public so that, in fact, space we can all use without paying would be available.

But here is the one that really broke me: Extending the Medicare sequester

rate saves \$14 billion, but the one-time saving is based on an occurrence in the year 2025.

So, in closing, Madam Speaker, I will not sell our future for this year's budget; and, therefore, I recommend a "no" because of the pay-fors on this budget.

□ 1615

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH), somebody who has been very focused on making sure we keep the full faith and credit of the United States.

Mr. WELCH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, there are a few reasons why this agreement deserves our support:

First, it is good public policy. This finally unleashes the shackles of the sequester that have prevented Congress from making decisions and, instead, just had across-the-board cuts. The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) is going to have an opportunity for his Appropriations Committee—Republicans and Democrats—to do its job.

Second, it averts enormous increases in Medicare part B premiums.

Third, it keeps Social Security disability funds solvent through 2022, and there are a number of other things.

The second major reason why this is so important is this: It is an agreement. We have finally come together, through the leadership of Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI, to legislate. We have been part of a legislative body that is on strike, that hasn't legislated. We cannot underestimate the power that is unleashed by the capacity of this Congress to give certainty to the American people and to our agencies as to what comes ahead and what they have to do.

Secondly, what Speaker BOEHNER did—and I am so indebted to him, as all of us should be—is that he took out of the hands of those of us in Congress two weapons which, when used, are very destructive, and those are: the threat of shutting the government down, and the threat of defaulting on America's full faith and credit. We can't do that.

And Speaker BOEHNER, to his credit, when there was the Planned Parenthood dispute about funding and he was in favor of cutting funding, he opposed shutting down government to achieve that goal.

We have suspended the debt ceiling through 2017, which means this body is going to have not just the opportunity, but the responsibility to do its job.

Finally, what we have seen here, when Speaker BOEHNER reached out to Leader PELOSI, is that he had in the minority leader a willing partner who was willing to sit down, work hard, and reach an agreement. That sets the foundation for progress ahead.

I wish the best success to Speaker-to-be RYAN. He has willing and able partners in the whole Caucus to make progress for America.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gen-

tleman from South Carolina (Mr. SANFORD), the distinguished former Governor of South Carolina, who is a Member of this great body.

Mr. SANFORD. Madam Speaker, I will say to the chairman from Kentucky that I am absolutely sympathetic in the way that he and others in the leadership are really caught between a rock and a hard place.

If you think about 100 members of the defense community saying, "Wait a minute. We won't vote for it unless we get more there"; folks in the AG community saying, "We don't like this particular provision"; advocates of Medicare saying, "We have got to have a bit more here," the realities of a debt ceiling, a President who said, "A clean ceiling or nothing at all," I mean, they really have been between a rock and a hard place.

But that having been said, we are still left at the end of the day with a \$1.5 trillion problem that has grown on top of an \$18 trillion problem; and I, therefore, believe that the simple notion is the key to getting out of a hole is to quit digging. Fundamentally, I believe that this bill does more digging than not. And I say that from three different points:

One, there is a process question. In fairness to the chairman and others, in some ways, this was handed to them, and I think that there are serious questions that any of us should have with regard to process.

Two, it does remove the caps. As draconian as they are, they represent the only piece of financial restraint in Washington, D.C., that has encumbered this entity. That, I think, has a lot to do with the fiscal restraint that we have seen on domestic discretionary spending.

And finally, as my colleague from California just pointed out, there is borrowing from Peter to pay for Paul. And if you look at where disability insurance is getting money from the standpoint of old age survivors, if you look at the bandwidth question, if you look at the strategic oil question, if you look at pension smoothing and a whole number of other areas, you are left with this larger question of this still does not solve the problem of this upward trajectory that we have with regard to spending in this place.

Therefore, I would remind everyone of what Admiral Mike Mullen said, who is the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He said that the greatest threat to our civilization was the national debt. At the end of the day, this bill compounds it; and for that reason, I would respectfully encourage a "no."

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, today's effort is a moment of satisfaction but not delectation. This stands before us as a testament that Congress cannot be

dictated to by a minority of the majority. This institution cannot work based upon the principle that a minority of the majority can dictate the outcome of legislative life.

I am glad we are finding common ground and common purpose. It is similar to the Congress that I joined a lot of years ago.

But rather than a moment of gloating, we should all take a look at what has happened to the process that once governed this institution. And my plea to the new Speaker of the House is going to be: Remember that the committee system is the vertebra of Congress. It is within the structure of the committee system that we find the way forward.

And to Speaker BOEHNER, a good man and a good friend who leaves here in the next couple of days, congratulations, as well as to Leader PELOSI, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader REID. But the sad commentary is this could never have happened if they didn't take it upon themselves to do the actual negotiation. The polarization in this institution would have prevented that.

We cannot keep taking America to the financial precipice. We need some predictability, some confidence in building the economy. By embracing this proposal, we allow that opportunity to perhaps happen. We take default off the table. The full faith and credit of the United States will not be impugned. We will not allow the country to be hijacked by extremist views.

I say to those here, that small number that want to dictate the outcome of what happens in this institution: Pay some attention to the skill and the art of legislating as opposed to just the talking points that lend themselves to the incendiary commentary that flows from this institution now. Work with both sides to try to find an outcome that the American people can look at as having accomplished with some pride.

We look at this institution with great regard, and what has happened to it is a shameful exercise in allowing this rule that prevents us from moving forward because of the advances that are made by a minority of the majority.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his hard work over the years on the budget.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand today to support this agreement. It allows us to limp along. There is no shutdown for now. We avoid the damage of default. There is a slight relaxation in sequestration. There is equity for seniors and the disabled.

There was a time when many of these provisions would not necessarily be a cause for celebration, but it is today.

This is a signal accomplishment for stability.

I take my hat off to Speaker BOEHNER, Leader PELOSI, the Senate leadership, and the President and his team for delivering an agreement that came together for Congress at relatively warp speed, working behind the scenes for days. It wins the House some breathing space, not lurching from crisis to crisis, and I hope that we take advantage of this achievement.

This was an important week here on Capitol Hill:

We have made a transition on the Republican side with a new Speaker, a friend that I respect and admire, the gentleman from Wisconsin, PAUL RYAN. I look forward to working with him.

It was important that the House was able to work its will on the Ex-Im Bank. We found a piece of legislation supported not just overwhelmingly by the House, but by a majority of Republicans, bottled up in committee by a minority, and it broke loose. I think that is important.

I hope this breathing room allows us to do one other thing, and that is to prioritize our budget requirements. We are going to spend over \$1 trillion in the years ahead on nuclear weapons that we cannot afford to use and can't afford to buy. We can do better for the American people, and I hope this agreement allows us to do so.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), a distinguished member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I am one who comes to this floor to support this agreement. It means the great work that we are doing on the Appropriations Committee—working with my colleagues, like Chairman ROGERS and TOM COLE from Oklahoma—the work we are doing on brain health-related issues, the creation of a process to map the human brain, to create a national brain observatory, to help lead the world in an area in which we can finally find answers to a whole range of diseases going forward. We will be able to move our appropriations bills on a whole range of issues—from youth mentoring, to housing, to health care—because the Congress and its leadership have come together.

So I commend both sides, and I commend the White House. I am pleased that this agreement has happened.

Yesterday I announced a \$10 million TIGER grant for Philadelphia. This agreement means that there will be other Members who will be making said announcements out in the future because we will be doing the work that helps keep America number one in the world.

For all of our challenges, we have the most powerful Nation in the world. This agreement helps to move us forward, and I am here to applaud it and to vote in favor of it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), somebody who knows how to lead, who knows how to get things done, who knows how to find common ground, and who was a vital part of bringing us to the progress we are making today, the Democratic leader.

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) for yielding and for his kind words, and I return the compliment to him.

To the staff of the Budget Committee, the staff of the other committees of jurisdiction on both sides of the aisle who enabled this important agreement to come forward, thank you very much.

Madam Speaker, today we are proud to come to the floor with legislation that moves America forward, affirming the full faith and credit of the United States of America, as our Constitution says should never be in doubt, and passing a budget agreement that creates jobs, protects seniors, and invests in our future.

Today we cast our votes for a bipartisan budget package that represents significant progress for hardworking American families.

Throughout the budget process, I am proud that Democrats have been united by our values and our determination to win progress for those hardworking American families. We showed we had the votes and the resolve to sustain the President's vetoes of funding bills that did not meet the needs of those people.

Working with our Republican colleagues on a compromise enabled us at long last to bring to the floor a bill, a bill with which we have broken the sequester stranglehold on our national defense and our investments in good-paying jobs and the future of America.

In this agreement before the House, we achieve equal funding; we honor the principle of parity between defense and domestic priorities. We achieve equal funding increases for defense and domestic initiatives, amounting to \$112 billion over the next 2 years. We prevent a 20 percent cut in disability benefits for millions of people in 2016 and extend the solvency of the Social Security Disability Insurance program. We prevent a drastic increase in Medicare part B premiums and deductibles for millions of seniors next year. And we affirm the full faith and credit of the United States is nonnegotiable and unbreakable, with a clean debt limit suspension.

□ 1630

We push through the gridlock to provide more economic certainty and, according to the Council of Economic Advisers, create an additional 340,000 jobs in 2016 alone.

Budget and senior groups and groups for disability are lining up in strong support of this agreement. As AARP wrote to congressional leaders—I'm

sure you saw this, Mr. ROGERS, and thank you for your courageous support of this legislation, our great chairman of the Appropriations Committee—AARP wrote, "AARP strongly supports the bipartisan agreement you have reached to avert deep reductions in Social Security Disability Insurance benefits in 2016, and to address the imminent spike in Medicare Part B premiums which many older Americans would otherwise experience. Your efforts to reach across the aisle and together find sensible solutions to significant problems are appreciated and commended."

Working together, Madam Speaker, Democrats and Republicans, we have found a way forward for the American people. I thank the Republican leadership for their partnership in reaching this agreement.

Again, I thank the staffs of the committees of jurisdiction: the Budget Committee, the Ways and Means Committee, the Appropriations Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and others. I commend our colleagues for speaking out on this important agreement.

Let us pass this agreement. Let's vote "yes" today together. Let us pass this agreement, move swiftly to keep government open, and make progress for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote, and I hope it is a big strong one.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, might I inquire of the gentleman how many speakers he has remaining?

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I have about four more speakers.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER). He is somebody who has been a key leader on budget and fiscal issues, someone from the great State of Maryland, and our distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentlelady.

I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding. I thank him for his outstanding leadership as ranking member of the Budget Committee on fiscal stability and fiscal responsibility and his willingness to lead in ensuring that America invests in its future.

I thank the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I think I quote the chairman of the Appropriations Committee as much as I quote any other Member: Unrealistic and ill-advised. Those two words of his relating to the sequester are emblazoned on my frontal lobe, and I thank him for that statement.

Madam Speaker, this agreement represents a bipartisan effort to prevent a catastrophic default and lessen the chance of a government shutdown in December—lessens the chance. It doesn't preclude it. It shows what is possible when Democrats and Republicans work together to get something done in a bipartisan way.

This has been a unique week. The Export-Import Bank passed with a majority of Republicans and an overwhelmingly majority—all but one—of Democrats. This is going to pass, in my view, with overwhelming numbers of Republicans and overwhelming numbers of Democrats voting for it. That is what Americans want, and that is what they expect. They want us to work together, not always agree with one other, but to work together.

Madam Speaker, this bill replaces the sequester, that ill-advised policy that is hurting our country. It replaces it for 2 years and does so with parity for defense and non-defense sequester relief. It protects Medicare part B beneficiaries from seeing higher premiums, and it saves the Social Security Disability Insurance program from insolvency. All of those are worthwhile objectives.

This legislation will give us a chance to work on a long-term solution to our fiscal challenges over the next 2 years. This agreement, like Ryan-Murray, is a short-term agreement, and the end of it comes sooner than we expect.

Congress ought not to wait until this agreement is about to expire 2 years from now to act. We should get to work right now on a big, bipartisan deal to put America's fiscal house back in order and enable our Nation to afford investments in a stronger economic future.

Americans are not looking for a rickety bridge to 2017, but a sturdy one that can carry us into a stronger economic future. Businesses across the country are clamoring for long-term certainty, for Congress to find a way to replace the sequester and remove the uncertainty that it has created and continues to create.

So I hope, Madam Speaker, the history that is written about this legislation is that it was a bipartisan first step towards securing the kind of long-term agreement all of us know we must achieve.

I had the opportunity to serve with Mr. ROGERS for a couple of decades on the Appropriations Committee. He and I have served in this Congress together for a long period of time.

He is a responsible leader in the Congress of the United States, and I quote him because his perspective and mine are the same—although we differ on many issues—and it is that we owe it to the American people, we owe it to America, and we owe it to future generations to create the fiscal stability that will allow the Appropriations Committee, very frankly, to again become the center of decisionmaking, which it was for many of the years that I served on it.

Too often now we ignore the Appropriations Committee whose job is to set priorities and to apply the resources of our country to those priority items. If we don't adhere to that process, that will not happen.

Madam Speaker, in closing, we need to get a long-term fiscal resolution.

This is a short term. I will support it. It is good for the country. But we need a long-term solution. I thank the chairman, and I thank the ranking member, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, my friend, who has done such a terrific job.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Ranking Member, let me thank you. And to the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, let me thank you as well.

This was a tough call. And I do want to thank the leadership, Speaker BOEHNER, and our leadership, Leader PELOSI, Whip HOYER, and, of course, our ranking member of the Budget Committee, and the Ways and Means leadership as well. This is an important step forward because I can say to my constituents: We fixed some of your pain and your anguish.

Madam Speaker, this bill quickly provides \$80 billion, but I am so grateful that part of that deals with the plussing up of non-defense discretionary funding: child care, National Institutes of Health, and other very important issues.

My seniors, I think it is very important to note that your Medicare premium part B will not go up in a 50 percent increase in 2016 and there will be less deep cuts in Social Security, more jobs being created, and as well we will have the opportunities, as I indicated, to increase NIH funding.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 10 seconds.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. What we must be careful of is that we do not increase any mandatory minimums and some of the penalties that are in place, and we must be careful that we do protect Social Security and Medicare. We will continue to monitor this for a budget that will lift the debt ceiling until 2017 and have this country stand on its feet and pay its bills.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlelady for yielding and I rise to speak on the rule and the underlying legislation, which is the Senate Amendment to H.R. 1314, the "Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015."

The bill before us is not perfect—far from it—but it is a modest and positive step toward preventing Republicans from shutting down the government again and manufacturing crises that only harm our economy, destroy jobs, and weaken our middle class.

I have reviewed the agreement carefully and have concluded that on balance the good outweighs the bad for the following reasons:

1. The agreement provides \$80 billion of significant sequester relief over the next two years for both defense and non-defense priorities, which is nearly 90 percent of the relief requested by the President in his 2016 budget;

2. The Bipartisan Budget Agreement prevents a roughly 50 percent increase in the

Medicare Part B premium in 2016, protecting thousands of seniors in my congressional district, and millions more across the country, from cost increases;

3. The Bipartisan Budget Agreement avoids deep cuts to Social Security Disability Insurance (DI) benefits that would occur at the end of next year;

4. Hundreds of thousands of American jobs will be created over the next two years due to the avoidance of manufactured budget crises;

5. The Bipartisan Budget Agreement provides additional resources and the funding stability needed to protect our homeland, counter future threats, and take care of our troops while preventing deep cuts that would result from locking in sequestration;

6. The agreement is paid for in a balanced way that avoids harmful cuts to Medicare or Social Security beneficiaries; and

7. Prevents a catastrophic default and protects the full faith and credit of the United States and by suspending the national debt limit until March 15, 2017.

But as with any compromise there are some things in the agreement that I support and some things that I do not.

For example, while providing \$80 billion in relief over two years, instead of abolishing sequestration, as I would prefer, the agreement retains the sequestration principle and extends its applicability for two additional years, until 2025.

Of this \$80 billion, \$50 billion will be available in FY 2016 and \$30 billion in FY 2017, to be equally divided and allocated by the House and Senate Appropriations Committees among the various federal agencies and programs.

This modest increase in discretionary domestic funding holds open the promise of increased investments in critical areas such as basic research in health and science, education, veterans' medical care, and job training.

And these investments are desperately needed if we are to position our nation to prevail in an increasingly interconnected economy.

Madam Speaker, in the absence of this agreement, we would have to rely upon a full-year continuing resolution which would result in \$1 billion less in NIH funding and nearly 1,000 fewer NSF grants than under the President's budget.

Were we to operate under a continuing resolution through the end of FY 2016, per-pupil education funding would fall to the lowest levels since 2000, and Head Start would be flat-funded, which would mean roughly 17,000 fewer children served than in 2014.

Madam Speaker, a full-year CR at sequestration levels would mean \$1 billion less than the President requested for veterans' medical care relative even though all of us here agree that our veterans deserve more, much more, support than they have received.

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement will allow us to provide funding for job training for two million more workers than would be possible if we continued to operate through the end of FY 2016 under a continuing resolution subject to sequestration.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support the provision in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement that prevents an increase of nearly 50 percent in the Medicare Part B premium for 2016 and 2017 by spreading out the cost of replenishing

the Medicare Supplemental Medical Insurance Trust Fund over a number of years.

Without Congressional action, the monthly 2015 Part B premium of \$104.90 would increase by \$54.40 in 2016 to \$159.30 for beneficiaries not held harmless (i.e., those who did not receive an increase in their Social Security benefits).

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement maintains the hold harmless provision in current law and prevents a dramatic premium increase on beneficiaries not held harmless by setting a new 2016 basic Part B premium for the beneficiaries not held harmless at \$120, which is the amount the Part B premium would otherwise be for all beneficiaries in 2016 if the hold harmless provision in current law did not apply.

To replenish the Medicare Trust Fund, in 2016 there would be a loan of general revenue from the Federal Treasury, which will be repaid beginning in 2016 by an additional \$3 surcharge in the monthly Part B premium of beneficiaries not subject to the hold harmless.

Madam Speaker, it is worth noting that a functioning, effective federal government is critical to people with disabilities who disproportionately rely on government services to live, learn and work in their communities.

That is why I also strongly support the provision in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement that avoids deep cuts to Social Security Disability Insurance.

Specifically, the agreement ensures that the Social Security Disability Insurance program will continue to provide the full benefits that workers have earned, preventing a 20 percent cut that would have been applied to workers and their families at the end of 2016.

Madam Speaker, another reason I support the Bipartisan Budget Agreement is that it eliminates the temptation of House Republicans to once again resort to the brinksmanship politics of defaulting on the national debt.

The full faith and credit of the United States is too valuable a national asset to be trifled with, as Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first and greatest Treasury Secretary, understood.

In 1789, in the dawn of the nation's birth, Hamilton recognized and acted upon the belief that the path to American prosperity and greatness lay in its creditworthiness which provided the affordable access to capital needed to fund internal improvements and economic growth.

According to Hamilton, the nation's creditworthiness was one of its most important national assets and "the proper funding of the present debt, will render it a national blessing."

But to maintain this blessing, or to "render public credit immortal," Hamilton warned that it was necessary that "the creation of debt should always be accompanied with the means of extinguishment."

In other words, to retain and enjoy the prosperity that flows from good credit, it is necessary for a nation to pay its bills.

Defaulting on the national debt would vitiate the full faith and credit of the United States, cost American jobs, hurt businesses of all sizes, and do irreparable damage to the economy.

On the other hand, suspending the national debt until March 15, 2017, is estimated by the Congressional Budget Office to create 340,000 additional American jobs in 2016

alone and more than 500,000 job-years in 2017.

Additionally, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors forecasts that the indirect effect of increased certainty and confidence could further boost job creation and economic growth above these estimates.

What is more, increased long-term growth and rising middle-class incomes can be expected to result from the greater investments in human capital and infrastructure made possible by the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

Madam Speaker, perhaps the most immediate benefit of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement is that it paves the way for the House and Senate to reach agreement on the FY2016 spending bills needed to keep the federal government open and avoid another disastrous shutdown like the one House Republicans inflicted on the nation in October 2013.

That shutdown lasted 16 days, cost the economy \$24 billion, and inflicted untold harm on federal employees and the people they serve.

Madam Speaker, the past several years have been an extraordinary time in America.

We have seen the Legislative and Executive Branches of our government and the constitutional balance that the framers of the Constitution intended regarding matters related to public purse tested.

It is extraordinary when a matter that should be dealt with in the regular order of the business of the House and Senate becomes a matter so grave that a broad and diverse coalition call on Members of this body to do what we were elected to do: manage the business of the people through cooperation and compromise.

That is why we have heard from a broad and diverse range of American voices, including the AARP, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Education Association, and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, calling for the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement.

By supporting the Bipartisan Budget Agreement we can show the American people that we understand that we were sent here to address their problems and concerns by working together to reach agreement that responsibly makes the investments needed to keep our nation competitive in a global economy and enables all of our people to reach their potential and realize their dreams.

UPDATED II: SOME OF THE KEY GROUPS SUPPORTING THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET AGREEMENT

(October 28, 2015)

AARP: "On behalf of our 38 million members and as the largest nonprofit, non-partisan organization representing the interests of Americans age 50 and older and their families, AARP strongly supports the bipartisan agreement you have reached to avert deep reductions in Social Security Disability Insurance benefits in 2016, and to address the imminent spike in Medicare Part B premiums which many older Americans would otherwise experience. . . . By finding a sensible solution to keep premiums manageable for over 16 million beneficiaries, Congress is helping to prevent financial hardship for many beneficiaries at a time when there is no Social Security cost of living adjustment. . . . Finally, AARP appreciates that the agreement modifies sequestration for discretionary programs for fiscal year 2016. The higher discretionary cap may prevent unwise

cuts to countless programs serving older Americans. Sequestration relief for many health care, nutrition and supportive service programs is critically important to seniors as funding for them has declined over the past decade despite substantial increases in population requiring this assistance."

Center for Medicare Advocacy: "Congress is considering the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. This proposed budget agreement would reduce an expected spike in the Medicare Part B deductible and premiums for 2016. . . . We are glad people who rely on Medicare can breathe a bit easier—knowing that premiums and deductibles will not skyrocket next year."

Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities: The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities' (CCD) Fiscal Policy Task Force commends the House and Senate leadership for negotiating the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). . . . We commend the negotiators for reaching a deal that provides relief from sequestration and raises the budget caps for discretionary programs in Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017. The package provides welcome stability in the appropriations process and avoids a devastating 20% benefit cut in 2016 for Social Security Disability beneficiaries and their families."

Federation of American Hospitals: "The Federation of American Hospitals acknowledges that it is incumbent upon Congress to act on the debt ceiling and establish a federal budget. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 agreement, which accomplishes these goals, includes Medicare cuts as offsets. . . . The FAH understands that Congressional leaders did their best to minimize the effects of these cuts on the hospitals that care for the nation's seniors. By extending without increasing the overall effect of the Medicare sequester and focusing a limited payment change on certain physician-hospital arrangements, the bill is carefully crafted to meet its objectives."

American College of Physicians: "The American College of Physicians is pleased that today's proposed bipartisan budget agreement will provide two years of relief from existing 'sequestration' level spending caps that could result in cuts to programs that are vital to the nation's healthcare, including the National Institutes of Health, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Primary Care Training Programs authorized by Section 747 of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. . . . We [also] strongly support the proposal to ensure all new hospital acquisitions of private physician practices would only be eligible for Medicare payments equal to those for the same care services provided in the free-standing, community-based setting."

American Academy of Family Physicians: "On behalf of the Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 120,900 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write in support of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. . . . The AAFP notes that the bill will make two important reforms to Medicare. First, the bill will mitigate an anticipated spike in 2016 in premiums and deductibles for America's Medicare Part B enrollees, which will help avoid disruption in access to physicians' services to seniors. Second, the bill removes an incentive in the Medicare hospital outpatient payment system that has driven health systems to purchase Physician practices, in turn increasing healthcare costs without any corresponding benefit to patient care."

Chamber of Commerce: "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce . . . urges Congress to pass the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA2015) to bring certainty to next year's appropriations process, raise the debt limit through March

15, 2017, strengthen America's national security, and constructively resolve a handful of other outstanding issues."

NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby: "NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby is encouraged to hear that a budget deal has been reached that will surpass sequester budget caps for the next two years and raise the debt ceiling to prevent a default on our nation's financial obligations. . . . We are encouraged by the White House and Congressional leaderships' work on the proposed budget deal that lifts the caps on non-defense spending. Unaddressed, sequester would have caused hardship for many hardworking and vulnerable people in our nation."

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights: "We applaud the White House and congressional leaders who negotiated the budget deal introduced late last night for their hard work in crafting a bipartisan, two-year bill that will raise the caps on spending for both defense and non-defense discretionary spending and provided needed relief for underfunded programs that serve our communities."

Robert Greenstein, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities: "If approved by Congress, the new budget deal from the White House and congressional leaders will mark a significant achievement by an otherwise polarized Washington. . . . The package would effectively eliminate about 90 percent of the sequestration budget cuts for non-defense discretionary programs in fiscal year 2016, and about 60 percent of them in 2017 . . . extend the solvency of Social Security Disability Insurance through 2022, thereby avoiding across-the-board cuts of nearly 20 percent in disability benefits starting in late 2016, which will otherwise occur, and avoid, for Medicare, an estimated 52 percent increase in deductibles for physician and other outpatient services in 2016, and a 52 percent increase in Part B premiums that roughly 30 percent of Medicare beneficiaries otherwise would face. . . . The deal is a major, multifaceted package that addresses a number of contentious issues. . . . Overall, the deal is a significant achievement that includes an array of sound policies and policy reforms and accomplishes important goals."

National Education Association: "On behalf of the three million members of the National Education Association (NEA) and the students they serve, we urge you to Vote Yes on the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 which could be voted on as early as Wednesday. We applaud the bipartisan leadership exhibited to craft a bill that takes needed steps toward ending harmful sequester level funding so that necessary investments can be made in programs that will grow our economy and our future. Votes associated with this issue may be included in the NEA Legislative Report Card for the 114th Congress."

Committee for Education Funding: "The Committee for Education Funding (CEF), a coalition of 122 national education associations and institutions spanning early learning to postgraduate education, writes to express our support for the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) of 2015. The bill will eliminate most of the harmful sequester spending caps for nondefense discretionary (NDD) programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and FY 2017, thereby providing room for critically important investments in education programs through appropriations."

League of Conservation Voters: "We commend Leader Pelosi, Leader Reid, and President Obama for negotiating a deal free of ideological attacks on our environment that finally ends the cuts that hamper investment in our economy and the priorities of our families. We urge Congress to pass this budget deal and then pass a clean spending

bill free of anti-environmental riders that fund all federal agencies at a level that allows them to continue protecting our air, water, lands and wildlife."

Easter Seals: "Easter Seals is encouraged by the framework presented in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This compromise is designed to restore order to the federal budget and appropriations process, and will allow for much needed investments in people with disabilities. A functioning, effective federal government is critical to people with disabilities who disproportionately rely on government services to live, learn and work in their communities. We commend the negotiators for reaching a deal that provides partial relief from sequestration and raises the budget caps for discretionary programs in Fiscal Year 2016 and 2017 and provides stability."

NDD United: "NDD United—an alliance of more than 2,500 national, state, and local organizations working to protect investments in core government functions—strongly supports and urges you to support the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (BBA). This deal, brokered by all four corners of Congressional leadership and the President, restores critical funding equally to both defense and non-defense spending that keeps Americans healthy, safe and secure and ensures that we do not risk the full faith and credit of the United States by suspending the debt ceiling through March 2017."

AAUW: "On behalf of the over 170,000 members and supports of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), I urge Rep. Pelosi to support the Balanced Budget Act of 2015 (H.R. 1314). The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 lifts sequestration in a fair and responsible manner that ensures communities are healthy, safe, and secure. Cuts as a result of sequestration take a direct toll on our communities. . . . We . . . saw cuts to . . . important programs such as food assistance programs for women and children, cancer screenings, services for domestic violence survivors, and federal funding for low-income schools."

American Public Health Association: "The deal will allow Congress to provide much needed additional funding for nondefense discretionary programs in 2016, including public health, which continues to be woefully underfunded. The proposal would also reduce a pending premium increase for many Medicare Part B beneficiaries and extend the solvency of the Social Security Disability Insurance Trust Fund."

Alliance for Retired Americans: "The Alliance for Retired Americans is relieved that this budget deal would protect millions of seniors from significant increases to their Medicare Part B deductibles while preventing a 20% cut to Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits in 2016. The reallocation between the Social Security Old Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI) and SSDI trust funds would prevent a massive cut in benefits for the disabled. The transfer would not impact the long-term solvency of Social Security."

AFL-CIO: "Congressional leaders and the President successfully eluded the traps set by a conservative faction in Congress who have tried to hold our economy hostage to achieve their radical agenda. The full faith and credit of the United States will be preserved as we pay our bills on time—preventing brinkmanship over the debt until 2017. . . . It reduces the spike in [Medicare] deductibles for everyone and avoids a sharp increase in premiums for many. It ensures that 11 million Americans on Social Security Disability Insurance continue to receive full benefits through 2022."

SEIU: "This deal makes significant progress in eliminating some of the extraor-

dinary hardship and uncertainty associated with the sequester—as well as helps to head off a catastrophic government shutdown. . . ."

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 3¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), a great member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, first, let me thank our ranking member, Congressman VAN HOLLEN, for yielding and for his tremendous leadership on the Budget Committee.

Also, to Leader PELOSI and to Speaker BOEHNER, I just have to thank you for demonstrating that we can work together in a bipartisan way on behalf of the American people.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1314, which is the bipartisan budget agreement of 2015. Let me just say, as a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committees, I really know how difficult it has been to get us to where we were today. So thank you very much.

This budget deal, though, is not perfect. It averts a shutdown and prevents a catastrophic default on the Federal debt. Most importantly, though, it provides relief from the sequester and it begins—it begins—to invest in the American people through programs like food stamps, a safety net which many, many people need until they are through this economic recession.

We must do more to create good-paying jobs for individuals who want to work. This begins to invest in early childhood education and in public housing.

This agreement also prevents a massive hike in healthcare costs for our seniors. So while this agreement is an important step forward, much work remains.

It is past time that we start addressing the priorities of the American people, including passing bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform, making education affordable and accessible from pre-K through college, investing in workforce training through our community colleges, and building pathways out of poverty.

So, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this agreement so we can get Congress back to work putting people first. The American Dream has really turned into a nightmare for so many. Hopefully, our action today will give people hope that the American Dream may be achievable. But we must do more.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 1 minute to the

gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE), a terrific new Member of Congress.

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, for the cynics who believe that nothing can happen in Washington and that we are permanently doomed to disarray, this has been a very bad week.

First, with the Export-Import Bank, we see a majority of Republicans and an overwhelming majority of Democrats come together and reach a bipartisan compromise, and now here again with this big budget agreement, something that would avoid the catastrophic default, the first in American history if it were to happen.

Madam Speaker, I don't agree with everything that is in this bill, but I agree with the majority of it. It is about time this body stopped allowing the 10 or 20 percent we disagree with to block the 70, 80, and 90 percent we agree with. This is a step in the right direction. This is progress. This is what we need to do more of. I am proud to support it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, may I ask how much time remains on this side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Maryland has 45 seconds remaining.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Where we close is where we started. As we all recognize, this agreement is not perfect, but it certainly beats the alternative and is a positive step forward.

It ensures the full faith and credit of the United States. We will pay our bills on time. It prevents damaging sequester cuts to our economy and allows us to invest more in education, in scientific research, and military readiness.

It prevents a 20 percent cut to Social Security Disability beneficiaries, and it prevents a whopping Medicare part B increase for millions of American seniors.

So, again, while many of us would like to see more—and I agree with those who have said that we need to invest more and address many of the other big issues our country faces—this is a positive step forward.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank everybody who helped come together to make it possible. I urge its adoption.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, it has been my goal, as chairman of the Appropriations Committee for these 4 years, to get us back into regular order.

When I first came here and for many years thereafter, we passed 12 indi-

vidual appropriations bills funding the entire government, but separate bills so that every Member had a chance to dissect each of these bills, offer amendments, debate them, fight them, promote them, what have you, but at least everyone had their day in court.

Then somehow we got off on a tangent to where we could not appropriate separate bills. So at the end of the fiscal year, we had no choice but to pass what is called a continuing resolution, which means we just continue spending as we had for the last year, regardless of the needs of the moment.

That is a terrible way to do business. Agencies, particularly the military, would not have a way to plan their work or to make orders or to deploy troops and the like, a terrible way to do business. We lurch from one crisis to another, it seems.

□ 1645

My goal has been just to get back to that business of appropriating 12 separate bills so that we don't need a CR. We hear current needs. In a CR, you are spending money on projects no longer needed, but, nevertheless, they are required to spend the money, for example. A terrible waste of money.

So to get back on track, the appropriations process, our committee needs to have a top line number to which we appropriate. We have not been getting that number for one reason or the other. But now in this bill, not only are we getting a number for fiscal '16, which we will now use to write an omnibus appropriations bill for current needs and finish it by September 11, the deadline, we will do that, but it will be made up of the bills that have passed both the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and in conversations between the two bodies.

Not only do we have the number for fiscal '16, but we have it for fiscal '17, and that is very important. It gives us a year to plan our work to try to marshal through 12 separate bills for the first time in many, many years so that we, with the Senate, can send to the President 12 bills that have the polish and the content put into it and on it by the Members of our bodies, the House and the Senate. That is my goal. That is why I am so strong for this bill. That is the biggest thing in it from my perspective.

It is important that we are helping our folks who are on Social Security Disability to take the worry away from them that they have that that fund will be drying up, which it will be. It is great that we are taking care of the problem with Medicare benefit increases, the interest on Medicare. It is important, very important, of course, that we avoid the default in our debt ceiling coming up momentarily. All of these things you have heard about in this debate are great.

But for me, the 2 years that we have now to get back on regular order and stop lurching from crisis to crisis, to stop that business, this bill will give us that great chance.

I urge Members to support the bill. It is a good one. It is not perfect, not ideal, by any stretch of the imagination, but it is the best we can do with what we have, and the alternative would be disaster. I urge an "aye" vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today the House is scheduled to consider the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 which would increase the discretionary spending caps for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 set in the Budget Control Act of 2011 and would include offsets over 10 years. While the legislation would provide funding certainty for discretionary programs in fiscal years 2016 and 2017, it has some concerning provisions as explained below.

The bill provides additional resources for base discretionary non-defense spending far in excess of the levels in the fiscal year 2016 budget conference agreement (S. Con. Res. 11). The amount of base nondefense discretionary increases for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 are \$30 billion and \$15 billion, respectively, above the levels approved by Congress just over 5 months ago when the budget conference agreement was adopted. The bill also provides an additional adjustment through the Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism (OCO/GWOT) category of \$14.9 billion for the State Department and International Affairs budget category, which is \$7.9 billion—more than double—what the President requested in his FY16 Budget. If this adjustment becomes law, it will allow non-defense budgetary resources to be shifted from the base discretionary category, which has spending limits, to the OCO/GWOT category which has no spending limits. When both the base and OCO/GWOT increases for non-defense are considered, the total non-defense increase for 2016 and 2017 is \$37.9 billion and \$22.9 billion, respectively, above the budget conference agreement.

The bill also includes language that directs the Senate to file budget allocations in fiscal year 2017 at levels consistent with the discretionary amounts included in the bill and at the Congressional Budget Office baseline amounts for all other spending, unless a budget conference agreement is reached. This provision makes it highly likely that regular order for the budget process in the Senate will be circumvented and that the Senate will not offer a new budget in fiscal year 2017. If this outcome occurs, it will further erode the integrity of the Congressional budget process by preventing a fiscal year 2017 budget from being adopted that reflects the will of the Majority in the House and Senate. It also means reconciliation will not be available for fiscal year 2017 and Congress will no longer have a balanced budget agreement in place.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015. While I have concerns about portions of the bill, including the impact it may have on some of our hospitals, there are important provisions in the bill that are essential to protecting the well-being of many Americans.

For example, the bill provides two years of sequester relief, and allows us to increase our investments in critical areas, including education, housing, healthcare, transportation, homeland security, and defense. The agreement also suspends the debt limit until March

15, 2017. This will allow us to get back on track and plan for the future rather than continue governing from crisis to crisis.

The measure keeps Medicare Part B premium costs down for millions of seniors and protects all Medicare beneficiaries from the projected increases in their deductibles.

I am encouraged by this framework and hope that as the bill moves through the process, some of the areas of concern will be worked out and that we will be able to pass bipartisan appropriations measures for fiscal years 2016 and 2017. I urge my colleagues to support the Bipartisan Budget Agreement for the good of our country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 495, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the motion to concur by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to concur will be followed by a 5-minute vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 266, nays 167, not voting 2, as follows:

[Roll No. 579]

YEAS—266

Adams	Connolly	Gabbard
Aguilar	Conyers	Gallego
Ashford	Cook	Garamendi
Barr	Cooper	Gibson
Bass	Costa	Graham
Beatty	Costello (PA)	Granger
Becerra	Courtney	Grayson
Benishkek	Cramer	Green, Al
Bera	Crenshaw	Green, Gene
Beyer	Crowley	Grijalva
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Guthrie
Blumenauer	Culberson	Gutiérrez
Boehner	Cummings	Hahn
Bonamici	Curbelo (FL)	Hanna
Bost	Davis (CA)	Harper
Boyle, Brendan F.	Davis, Danny	Hartzler
	Davis, Rodney	Hastings
Brady (PA)	DeFazio	Heck (WA)
Brady (TX)	DeGette	Higgins
Brooks (IN)	Delaney	Himes
Brown (FL)	DeLauro	Hinojosa
Brownley (CA)	DelBene	Honda
Buchanan	Denham	Hoyer
Bustos	Dent	Huffman
Butterfield	DeSaulnier	Israel
Calvert	Deutch	Jackson Lee
Capps	Diaz-Balart	Jeffries
Capuano	Dingell	Johnson (GA)
Cárdenas	Doggett	Johnson (OH)
Carney	Dold	Johnson, E. B.
Carson (IN)	Donovan	Jolly
Carter (TX)	Doyle, Michael F.	Joyce
Cartwright		Kaptur
Castor (FL)	Duckworth	Katko
Castro (TX)	Edwards	Keating
Chu, Judy	Ellison	Kelly (IL)
Cicilline	Engel	Kennedy
Clark (MA)	Eshoo	Kildee
Clarke (NY)	Esty	Kilmer
Clay	Farr	Kind
Cleaver	Fattah	King (NY)
Clyburn	Fitzpatrick	Kinzinger (IL)
Cohen	Fortenberry	Kirkpatrick
Cole	Foster	Kline
Collins (NY)	Frankel (FL)	Kuster
Comstock	Frelinghuysen	Langevin
Conaway	Fudge	Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)	Norcross	Sherman
Lawrence	Nunes	Shuster
Lee	O'Rourke	Simpson
Levin	Pallone	Sinema
Lewis	Pascarell	Sires
Lieu, Ted	Payne	Slaughter
Lipinski	Pelosi	Smith (WA)
LoBiondo	Perlmutter	Speier
Loeb sack	Peters	Stefanik
Lofgren	Peterson	Stivers
Lowenthal	Pingree	Swalwell (CA)
Lowe y	Pittenger	Takai
Lucas	Pocan	Takano
Luetkemeyer	Poliquin	Thompson (CA)
Lujan Grisham (NM)	Polis	Thompson (MS)
Luján, Ben Ray (NM)	Price (NC)	Thompson (PA)
	Quigley	Thornberry
Lynch	Rangel	Tiberi
MacArthur	Reed	Titus
Maloney, Carolyn	Reichert	Tonko
Maloney, Sean	Rice (NY)	Torres
Matsui	Richmond	Tsongas
McCarthy	Rigell	Turner
McCollum	Rogers (AL)	Upton
McDermott	Rogers (KY)	Valadao
McGovern	Ros-Lehtinen	Van Hollen
McHenry	Roybal-Allard	Vargas
McMorris	Royce	Veasey
	Ruiz	Vela
Rodgers	Ruppersberger	Velázquez
McNerney	Rush	Visclosky
McSally	Ryan (OH)	Walden
Meehan	Ryan (WI)	Walters, Mimi
Meng	Sánchez, Linda T.	Walz
Messer	Sanchez, Loretta	Wasserman
Mica	Sarbanes	Schultz
Miller (MI)	Scalise	Waters, Maxine
Moore	Schakowsky	Watson Coleman
Moulton	Schiff	Welch
Murphy (FL)	Schrader	Wilson (FL)
Nadler	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Napolitano	Scott, David	Womack
Neal	Serrano	Yarmuth
Nolan	Sewell (AL)	

NAYS—167

Abraham	Graves (MO)	Newhouse
Aderholt	Griffith	Noem
Allen	Grothman	Nugent
Amash	Guinta	Olson
Amodei	Hardy	Palazzo
Babin	Harris	Palmer
Barletta	Heck (NV)	Paulsen
Barton	Hensarling	Pearce
Bilirakis	Herrera Beutler	Perry
Bishop (MI)	Hice, Jody B.	Pitts
Bishop (UT)	Hill	Poe (TX)
Black	Holding	Pompeo
Blackburn	Huelskamp	Posey
Blum	Huizenga (MI)	Price, Tom
Boustany	Hultgren	Ratcliffe
Brat	Hunter	Renacci
Bridenstine	Hurd (TX)	Ribble
Brooks (AL)	Hurt (VA)	Rice (SC)
Buck	Issa	Roby
Bucshon	Jenkins (KS)	Roe (TN)
Burgess	Jenkins (WV)	Rohrabacher
Byrne	Johnson, Sam	Rokita
Carter (GA)	Jones	Rooney (FL)
Chabot	Jordan	Roskam
Chaffetz	Kelly (MS)	Ross
Clawson (FL)	Kelly (PA)	Rothfus
Coffman	King (IA)	Rouzer
Collins (GA)	Knight	Russell
Crawford	Labrador	Salmon
DeSantis	LaHood	Sanford
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Schweikert
Duffy	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Duncan (SC)	Lance	Sensenbrenner
Duncan (TN)	Latta	Sessions
Ellmers (NC)	Long	Shimkus
Emmer (MN)	Loudermillk	Smith (MO)
Farenthold	Love	Smith (NE)
Fincher	Lummis	Smith (NJ)
Fleischmann	Marchant	Smith (TX)
Fleming	Marino	Stewart
Flores	Massie	Stutzman
Forbes	McCaul	Tipton
Fox	McClintock	Trott
Franks (AZ)	McKinley	Wagner
Garrett	Meadows	Walberg
Gibbs	Miller (FL)	Walker
Gohmert	Moolenaar	Walorski
Goodlatte	Mooney (WV)	Weber (TX)
Gosar	Mullin	Webster (FL)
Gowdy	Mulvaney	Wenstrup
Graves (GA)	Murphy (PA)	Westerman
Graves (LA)	Neugebauer	Westmoreland

Whitfield	Yoder	Young (IN)
Williams	Yoho	Zeldin
Wittman	Young (AK)	Zinke
Woodall	Young (IA)	

NOT VOTING—2

Hudson Meeks

□ 1721

Messrs. GUINTA, RUSSELL, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. NUGENT changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. LEE and SEWELL of Alabama and Messrs. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and McDERMOTT changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to concur was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3819. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 114-71)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to

Sudan is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2015.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *October 28, 2015.*

□ 1730

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

STATE LICENSING EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2015

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2643) to direct the Attorney General to provide State officials with access to criminal history information with respect to certain financial service providers required to undergo State criminal background checks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2643

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. BACKGROUND CHECKS.

Section 1511(a) of the S.A.F.E. Mortgage Licensing Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5110(a)) is amended—

(1) by inserting after “State-licensed loan originators” the following: “and other financial service providers”; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: “or other financial service providers”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) and the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2643, offered by my good friend and fellow Texan, Mr. WILLIAMS, is commonsense bipartisan legislation that will address the unintended consequences of the SAFE Act.

This bill passed the Committee on Financial Services by a vote of 57-0. Before I get into the details of this bill, I would like to thank the Texas Banking Commissioner, Charles Cooper, for his help and guidance as the committee considered this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2643 helps ensure a safe consumer financial marketplace by facilitating the licensing of certain financial services providers.

Congress authorized the creation of the National Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, the NMLS, to provide a mechanism for licensing nationwide of financial services providers.

The mission of NMLS is to improve interstate coordination information sharing among regulators, increasing efficiencies for industry and enhanced consumer protection.

Currently, the greater utility NMLS is frustrated by the FBI's current statutory incapacity to enhance the platform by allowing additional financial service providers, other than mortgage loan originators, to be licensed under this system.

When processing licenses, authorized State regulating agencies should have access to the most up-to-date criminal background information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. For certain classes of financial providers, that is not occurring.

The FBI should not be hindered from bringing the same efficiency to the criminal background checks of financial services personnel that the NMLS brought to the mortgage loan originators.

By enabling the State license agencies to obtain these background checks, this bill will make the licensing process more efficient and potentially help qualified businesses get up and running more quickly.

By enhancing the authority to process criminal history records for licensing of financial service providers beyond mortgage loan originators, this bill ensures that State financial regu-

lators have the necessary tools to exercise effective oversight.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear that this bill only affects financial services businesses which are already required to conduct background checks and which cannot currently use the NMLS system by Federal law.

H.R. 2643 has the potential to reduce the time it takes to complete background checks from anywhere between 2 days and 2 weeks to 24 hours under the expanded NMLS.

At the end of 2014, there were 20,386 professionals registered in the system. Nationwide there was a need to conduct over 105,000 background checks outside of the system.

It is estimated that this bill will reduce the number of background checks conducted outside the NMLS system by 80 percent and reduce the administrative and regulatory burden of State banking examiners to conduct them.

In closing, I want to make two points. First, no authority to conduct background checks is created by this legislation. Second, no new licensing requirements are created by this legislation.

I want to again thank the gentleman from Texas for his hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2015.

Hon. JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman, Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HENSARLING: I am writing concerning H.R. 2643, the “State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015” which was referred to your Committee as well as the Committee on the Judiciary.

As a result of your having consulted with us on provisions in H.R. 2643 that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on the Judiciary, I agree to discharge our Committee from further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. The Judiciary Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by forgoing consideration of H.R. 2643 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 27, 2015.

Hon. BOB GOODLATTE,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GOODLATTE: Thank you for your October 27th letter regarding H.R. 2643, the “State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015.”

I am most appreciative of your decision to forgo action on H.R. 2643 so that it may move expeditiously to the House floor. I acknowledge that although you are waiving action on the bill, the Committee on the Judiciary is in no way waiving its jurisdictional interest in this or similar legislation. In addition, if a conference is necessary on this legislation, I will support any request that your committee be represented therein.

Finally, I shall be pleased to include your letter and this letter in our committee's report on H.R. 2643 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the same.

Sincerely,

JEB HENSARLING,
Chairman.

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2643, and I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation.

I want to briefly say a few words about Mr. WILLIAMS' bill, H.R. 2643, the State Licensing Efficiency Act of 2015.

This legislation is extremely important. I am proud that this bill is a product of a bipartisan effort, a bipartisan effort that, in the last Congress, I was privileged to work with the Committee on Financial Services chair emeritus, Chairman Bachus, on this legislation.

Unfortunately, the clock ran out on the last Congress. So I am very pleased that Mr. WILLIAMS has taken up this legislation and gotten it to the floor.

It just makes all the sense in the world to streamline criminal background checks. I want to thank Mr. WILLIAMS and thank my colleague, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, for championing this legislation.

I urge adoption of this bill. I have no further speakers on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), the primary author of this bill.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would also like to thank my colleague, Ms. MOORE, for her hard work on this. I appreciate it.

H.R. 2643, the State Licensing Efficiency Act, will expand the State's ability to use a federally accepted registry, the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System, to expedite background checks.

For many State-licensed financial service providers, the current background check process is inefficient, but this registry has a proven track record of being effective while also reducing regulatory burden.

Under the SAFE Act, the current NMLS, developed by State banking commissioners, has been used to oversee the mortgage industry since 2008. To date, the Conference of State Bank Supervisors has channeled over 1.3 million fingerprint checks of mortgage loan originators.

Citing an absence in Federal law, the FBI has prevented its use to conduct background checks for other financial

services, including money transmitters, debt collectors, pawnbrokers, and check cashers.

Whereas a State wishing to conduct a criminal background check through traditional means may wait several weeks and sometimes even months for their response, NMLS communicates directly with the FBI and often receives the same results, as we have heard, in just 24 hours.

H.R. 2643 would expand the current system to include those financial service providers who are already licensed by the State and require a Federal background check.

The NMLS provides increased collaboration between State banking departments, reduces the risk of bad actors by preventing them from continuing to operate, and improves the safety and soundness of the financial system as a whole. In short, NMLS provides an added level of assurance to community banks that their business customers and vendors are operating legally.

Supported by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, expanding the use of NMLS provides State regulators a secure and efficient means by which to conduct background checks on license applicants.

I want to be clear. As we have heard in the past, this bill does not create any requirements for background checks or fingerprints, but greatly increases efficiency and transparency.

In addition, by no means does this bill encourage States to require or mandate States to license or register any additional class of financial service providers.

This act authorizes only State-licensed loan originators and other State-licensed financial service providers to be processed through NMLS for background checks authorized under the laws of the State. Simply put, by expanding its use, NMLS will save industry and, ultimately, the consumer money.

At the end of 2014, there were around 20,386 professionals registered in the NMLS system. Those individuals, as we have heard, required over 105,000 background checks outside the NMLS system. If our bill becomes law, we would reduce that number by 80 percent because we would be using one system instead of 50, saving industry \$1.1 million by removing duplicate background checks.

Finally, in my home State of Texas, the expansion of NMLS is supported by State Banking Commissioner Charles Cooper, who we talked about tonight. I want to take a moment to thank Commissioner Cooper for his leadership on this issue.

In addition, I want to thank my own staff and the staff of CSBS, who have worked tirelessly to support our efforts in pushing this legislation through. Without them and the support of my colleagues on the committee and Chairman HENSARLING, none of this would be possible. I thank Chairman NEUGEBAUER, and I thank Ms. MOORE.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2643.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2643.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1745

SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP ACT OF 2015

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 623) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015".

SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title III of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.

"(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Secretary shall establish within the Department a social media working group (in this section referred to as the 'Group').

"(b) *PURPOSE.*—In order to enhance the dissemination of information through social media technologies between the Department and appropriate stakeholders and to improve use of social media technologies in support of preparedness, response, and recovery, the Group shall identify, and provide guidance and best practices to the emergency preparedness and response community on, the use of social media technologies before, during, and after a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

"(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

"(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Membership of the Group shall be composed of a cross section of subject matter experts from Federal, State, local, tribal, territorial, and nongovernmental organization practitioners, including representatives from the following entities:

"(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

"(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

"(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

"(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"(F) The American Red Cross.

"(G) The Forest Service.

"(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"(I) The United States Geological Survey.

"(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) CHAIRPERSON; CO-CHAIRPERSON.—

“(A) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall serve as the chairperson of the Group.

“(B) CO-CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson shall designate, on a rotating basis, a representative from a State or local government who is a member of the Group to serve as the co-chairperson of the Group.

“(3) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The chairperson shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

“(A) be equal to or greater than the total number of regular members under paragraph (1); and

“(B) include—

“(i) not fewer than 3 representatives from the private sector; and

“(ii) representatives from—

“(I) State, local, tribal, and territorial entities, including from—

“(aa) law enforcement;

“(bb) fire services;

“(cc) emergency management; and

“(dd) public health entities;

“(II) universities and academia; and

“(III) nonprofit disaster relief organizations.

“(4) TERM LIMITS.—The chairperson shall establish term limits for individuals appointed to the Group under paragraph (3).

“(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the extent practicable, the Group shall work with entities in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection (b).

“(e) MEETINGS.—

“(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Group shall hold its initial meeting.

“(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet—

“(A) at the call of the chairperson; and

“(B) not less frequently than twice each year.

“(3) VIRTUAL MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the Group may be held virtually.

“(f) REPORTS.—During each year in which the Group meets, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes the following:

“(1) A review and analysis of current and emerging social media technologies being used to support preparedness and response activities related to natural disasters and acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters.

“(2) A review of best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media technologies during the response to natural disasters and acts of terrorism and other man-made disasters that occurred during the period covered by the report at issue.

“(3) Recommendations to improve the Department's use of social media technologies for emergency management purposes.

“(4) Recommendations to improve public awareness of the type of information disseminated through social media technologies, and how to access such information, during a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

“(5) A review of available training for Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial officials on the use of social media technologies in response to a natural disaster or an act of terrorism or other man-made disaster.

“(6) A review of coordination efforts with the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, operational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.

“(g) DURATION OF GROUP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Group shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this section unless the chairperson renews the Group for a successive 5-year period, prior to the date on which the Group would otherwise terminate, by submitting to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on

Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a certification that the continued existence of the Group is necessary to fulfill the purpose described in subsection (b).

“(2) CONTINUED RENEWAL.—The chairperson may continue to renew the Group for successive 5-year periods by submitting a certification in accordance with paragraph (1) prior to the date on which the Group would otherwise terminate.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following:

“Sec. 318. Social media working group.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 623, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As disasters become more frequent and severe, it is critical that emergency managers and citizens take advantage of new technologies to send and receive critical information.

Social media has become an essential tool in the preparedness, response, and recovery for all hazards, whether natural or manmade. We saw how critical social media was in relaying information following Hurricane Sandy, the Boston Marathon bombing, and, just a few weeks ago, during Hurricane Joaquin and the historic flooding in South Carolina. Social media helps reach people in need, helps get the right information into the hands of the public, helps organize volunteers, and can be a source of critical on-the-ground information to decisionmakers.

H.R. 623, as amended by the Senate, would require DHS to establish a social media working group to enhance the use of social media to support preparedness, response, and recovery of all hazards. This group will be required to report to Congress on an annual basis on its findings, emerging trends, and best practices.

I commend the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS) for sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 623, the DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015, was introduced by my good friend and colleague from Indiana, Congresswoman SUSAN BROOKS.

The bill, Mr. Speaker, was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and to the Committee

on Homeland Security. This bill codifies the Department of Homeland Security's Social Media Working Group to enhance the use of social media during disasters and other events, and to provide guidance and best practices in emergency preparedness and response. Social media, especially Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube, can play a critical role in preparedness, response, and recovery operations during emergencies.

Emergency managers at all levels use social media to warn those in harm's way of impending natural hazards. Social media is also used to inform survivors on how to access disaster assistance and tips for speedier recoveries. Equally important, Mr. Speaker, social media has been used to coordinate and manage assistance from nonprofits and volunteers who want to help in recovery efforts.

More and more, we are seeing individuals take to social media during emergencies. Individuals have used social media to help identify locations where assistance may still be needed and to raise awareness of impending hazards. They have also used it, Mr. Speaker, to communicate with loved ones who may be impacted by an event as well as reconnect pets with their owners. This has certainly been the case in the great Hoosier State.

This last summer, Mr. Speaker, will go down as the wettest summer in Indianapolis history. Rainfall in July broke a 140-year-old record in our great city, making it the wettest month ever recorded, and social media helped keep residents informed in real time. In Indianapolis, the National Weather Service, Department of Homeland Security, and local broadcasters routinely used social media to post updates on ever-changing weather conditions.

The very unique benefit of social media alerts is that you don't have to be right next to a radio or TV to be informed; you can virtually be anywhere. This summer, when dangerous flooding covered many roads in our city, social media exploded with pictures of flooded roadways and stranded motorists. This nontraditional tool enabled people to know where major problems were located and to avoid danger with the famous catchphrase, “Turn Around Don't Drown.”

The existing DHS Social Media Working Group provides recommendations on how to use social media before, during, and after emergencies. This working group, Mr. Speaker, consists of emergency responders, NGOs, nonprofits, and Federal agencies.

I support the provisions in today's bill to broaden the group's membership to include private sector representatives and to require consultation with nonmembers.

To ensure accountability, this requires an annual report to Congress on important issues, such as best practices and lessons learned. It would also provide recommendations on how to improve the use of the social media

platform for emergency management purposes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, we recognize the importance of this platform for emergency management. I would be remiss not to remind our colleagues of the need to authorize the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System, also known as IPAWS.

As the committee of primary jurisdiction over IPAWS, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee unanimously approved the Barletta-Carson IPAWS authorization bill back in April and ordered the bill reported. It is past time for this bill to be considered in the House.

Despite the Senate's inadvertent omission of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I support this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I urge our colleagues to do the same to approve this measure.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), the sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 623, the DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015.

I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his management of the bill and, also, my good friend and colleague from the State of Indiana, Congressman CARSON. Both of us have served in public safety in the past, and so it is especially gratifying that he is managing the bill as well this evening.

Social media, as we have heard, is transforming the way the Nation is communicating before, during, and after terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies. There are countless examples from recent events of how citizens are turning to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and even Snapchat for public safety information, to comfort survivors, tell loved ones they are safe, and request assistance.

As has already been mentioned, citizens of South Carolina used social media to communicate with first responders, friends, and families after heavy rainfall caused destructive flash flooding across the State.

Additionally, a quarter of Americans—let me repeat, a quarter of Americans—got information about the devastating terrorist attack at the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing from Facebook and Twitter.

Citizens are not the only ones using social media during and after an emergency. First responders are proactively using social media as a force multiplier to get vital information out. For example, immediately following the terrorist attack and during the manhunt, the Boston PD utilized social media as a way to communicate with and solicit information from citizens and visitors.

These are just a few of the hundreds of examples that demonstrate the prevalence of social media use before, during, and after an emergency.

In the 113th Congress, I served as the chair of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications. The subcommittee held two hearings that focused on this new phenomenon, and I learned at that time that while the Nation is making great strides in this area, gaps and challenges remain.

One of the key takeaways, however, was that during and after a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other emergency, there is still a need for better communication between the public and the private sectors, specifically, with how to utilize social media as a communication tool.

So last year, I was proud to work with the ranking member, Congressman PAYNE, to find ways to better utilize social media during disasters by leveraging both public and private resources and experiences.

The bill passed with overwhelming support last Congress and, after reintroduction this Congress, I am pleased to say, in February, the House again resoundingly agreed to its passage.

H.R. 623, while authorizing and enhancing the Department of Homeland Security's existing social media group, essentially what it does is it ensures that best practices and lessons learned on the use of social media during terrorist attacks or disasters are being discussed and shared with Federal, State, and local first responders, nongovernmental organizations, academia, and the private sector.

Currently, the Virtual Social Media Working Group is made up primarily of State and local officials, and they are doing great work and developing guidance. However, this bill will increase the group's stakeholder participation, particularly among the private sector and the Federal response agencies.

So by including private sector groups like Google and Twitter and Facebook, we know it will improve coordination and relief efforts. Also, as we have already heard, it will require the group to submit an annual report to Congress highlighting best practices, lessons learned, and any recommendations. Finally, this bill will require the group to meet, in person or virtually, at least twice a year, and will not be a financial burden on the Department.

I appreciate the swift action of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I especially want to thank Chairman JOHNSON for his leadership on this issue. Their thoughtful additions have served to further improve the bill.

I also want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and Chairman BARLETTA of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for working with me to get this bill to the floor, and also my successor at EPRC, Ms. MCSALLY, for continuing to make this issue a priority.

Finally, I want to thank the staff, because we know that this bill and the improvements with technology will

save lives, and it will make our first responders and those in danger safer.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 623.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY REVIEW ACT

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 455) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a northern border threat analysis, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 455

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Northern Border Security Review Act".

SEC. 2. NORTHERN BORDER THREAT ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a Northern Border threat analysis that includes—

(1) current and potential terrorism and criminal threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking to—

(A) enter the United States through the Northern Border; or

(B) exploit border vulnerabilities along the Northern Border;

(2) improvements needed at and between ports of entry along the Northern Border to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States; and

(B) reduce criminal activity, as measured by the total flow of illegal goods, illicit drugs, and smuggled and trafficked persons moved in either direction across the Northern Border;

(3) gaps in law, policy, cooperation between State, local, and tribal law enforcement, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder effective and efficient border security, counter-terrorism, anti-human smuggling and trafficking efforts, and the flow of legitimate trade along the Northern Border; and

(4) an analysis of whether additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance and pre-inspection operations at ports of entry along the Northern Border could help prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States.

(b) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.—For the threat analysis required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider and examine—

(1) technology needs and challenges;

(2) personnel needs and challenges;

(3) the role of State, local, and tribal law enforcement in general border security activities;

(4) the need for cooperation among Federal, State, local, tribal, and Canadian law enforcement entities relating to border security; and

(5) the terrain, population density, and climate along the Northern Border.

(c) CLASSIFIED THREAT ANALYSIS.—To the extent possible, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit the threat analysis required under subsection (a) in unclassified form. The Secretary may submit a portion of the threat analysis in classified form if the Secretary determines such is appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “Northern Border” means the land and maritime borders between the United States and Canada.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, and urge its passage. This legislation would require the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a much-needed threat analysis of current and potential threats along our Nation's vast northern border.

As a former Federal prosecutor on both the northern border in New York and the southern border in El Paso, Texas, not to mention my time as a Federal prosecutor on the island of Puerto Rico, I have seen firsthand the challenges our Nation faces to counter violent drug trafficking organizations, organized crime syndicates, and human trafficking that transit across our Nation's border.

While great attention is justifiably given to the challenges of securing our southern border, ensuring the safety of our vast northern border is also critical to our Nation's security. It has been well documented that several major terrorist plots have been discovered and disrupted along the northern border in recent years.

□ 1800

Ahmed Ressam, the so-called millennium bomber, was entering Washington

State from Canada with a concealed bomb intended to detonate at LAX Airport when he was arrested by alert Customs agents in 1999.

In 2013, with the help of our Canadian allies, the FBI and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police thwarted an attempt to derail and kill passengers on a train between New York and Toronto, which became known as the VIA rail plot.

As chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's bipartisan Foreign Fighters Task Force, I recently examined other vulnerabilities at our border associated with foreign fighter travel. Unfortunately, neither the United States nor Canada is immune to the threat of foreign fighters who may be inspired by groups like ISIS or otherwise radicalized online from others abroad.

Among the findings of the bipartisan Task Force was the identification of security weaknesses that are putting the U.S. homeland in danger by making it easier for foreign fighters to migrate to terrorist hotspots and for jihadists to return to the West. One such vulnerability stems from our vast northern border that we share with Canada. Along this border, we face a number of unique challenges both geographically and jurisdictionally.

Complicating the current understanding of the security needs along our northern border is the administration's decision to stop providing metrics to Congress in 2010 that identified the number of miles under operational control.

In that year, the Government Accountability Office reported that only 69 miles, or about 2 percent of the northern border's 4,000 miles, were under operational control. Let me repeat that. Only 2 percent of our northern border is under operational control.

To address this lack of information with regard to the state of northern border security, this legislation requires that an assessment be conducted to analyze a variety of issues facing the northern border. These include potential terrorist threats, potential improvements, gaps in law or policy, and illegal border activity.

This analysis is intended to better inform any resources that are needed along the border to increase operational control and legislation that can result therefrom.

I recently had the opportunity to spend time with CBP officers and agents at the Port of Oswego in my district. I am continually impressed with their ability to carry out their duties in incredibly difficult situations.

This bill will help them better secure our Nation's borders, as it will give our agents and officers the tools and information needed to better do their jobs.

Previous analyses of the northern border have largely focused on drug trafficking and lack a holistic security approach to the issues that are unique along the northern border.

The analysis required in this bill will provide Customs and Border Protection

with the foundation needed to address all threats at and between ports of entry along the northern border. It will also provide Congress with the information necessary to conduct proper oversight.

In my 10 months in office, I have worked vigorously to address known challenges that the Department of Homeland Security faces. Since January, I, along with both my Republican and Democratic colleagues, have introduced seven pieces of legislation that address transportation and border security issues and hope that this will be the third bipartisan bill that we send to the President's desk.

This final product embodies the essence of bipartisanship, and I am proud to say that all Americans will benefit from the work my colleagues and I have done to secure our northern border.

My colleagues and I understand we have a lot more work to do, and I promise we will continue to provide diligent oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. When we see a problem at this agency, we work swiftly together in a bipartisan manner with our Democratic brothers and sisters to address it.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

I would like to thank Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security Chairman CANDICE MILLER for her support, along with my fellow northern border colleagues who have joined as cosponsors.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, introduced by my friend, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO).

The bill before us would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare a northern border threat analysis. There has long been an intent focus on the southern border and the many challenges faced there. While this is undoubtedly justified, the northern border has often been neglected in this process.

The Northern Border Security Review Act takes steps to correct this disparity by requiring an analysis of terror threats posed by individuals entering through the northern border as well as improvements needed at and between ports to prevent their entry.

I was pleased that two of my amendments were adopted in committee. The first required an analysis of whether the implementation of preclearance and preinspection at additional ports of entry would enhance our security and prevent terrorists from entering the United States.

A preinspection pilot at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo was conducted in early 2014 and was deemed a success. It demonstrated the potential to efficiently process cargo while also enabling Customs and Border Protection

to conduct inspections and interdict threats before they reach the United States.

The historic preclearance agreement reached between the United States and Canada earlier this year paved the way for implementation of permanent preinspection and preclearance at the Peace Bridge and other locations.

The second amendment would require an analysis of the number of additional Customs and Border Protection officers and agents needed to properly staff the northern border. Persistent staffing shortages have resulted in wait times that discourage economic activity while also leaving us vulnerable to a number of threats.

That is why I was disappointed that this language was weakened during negotiations with the Senate. Having accurate information on the number of personnel required to detect illicit activity while facilitating legitimate trade and travel is vital. It is my hope that analysis on staffing requirements is included in forthcoming legislation.

H.R. 455 will help ensure that we better understand the threats facing the northern border so we can understand how best to address them. With that in mind, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from New York has no further speakers, I am prepared to close once the gentleman does.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VELA), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) for their great leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that we on the Committee on Homeland Security work together very well on many of these issues.

I rise to support the Northern Border Security Review Act, H.R. 455. My colleague from Texas (Mr. VELA) is the ranking member. I am delighted to be able to support a bill that captures all of what we have been speaking of over the years.

As a member of Homeland Security, there are two borders. There is the southern border, for which I certainly have concern, as a Representative from Texas, but there is also the northern border. I am glad to say I have been to the northern border, walked along the northern border.

Let me say thank you for the aspects of this bill. H.R. 455 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a classified northern border threat analysis on terrorism threats posed by individuals seeking to enter the United States, improvements needed at ports of entry, gaps in law, policy, international agreements, illegal cross-border activity, and the scope of the border security challenges.

This is a complete picture of the Nation's border, including whether addi-

tional preclearance and preinspection by CBP at ports of entry along the northern border could help prevent terrorists and their instruments from entering the United States.

Canada has been a longstanding friend. I believe anytime that we can enhance both the relationship and the security of the U.S.-Canadian border, the northern border, it is a very positive step forward for the Nation's security.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act.

Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security, a former ranking member of its Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, and a co-sponsor, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 455, the "Northern Border Security Review Act."

I would like to thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member THOMPSON of the Homeland Security Committee and Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member VELA of the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee for their work on this vital legislation.

Their leadership, coupled with input from members of the Homeland Security Committee and the Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee, have helped make this common sense legislation a reality.

I very much appreciate the bipartisan spirit Chairman MILLER has displayed as we worked together on many border security initiatives over the past several years.

The security of the Northern Border is an important area of concern in the effort to secure our homeland and keep it safe from those who would do us harm.

BILL OVERVIEW

H.R. 455 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a classified northern border threat analysis, which shall include analyses of:

1. terrorism threats posed by individuals seeking to enter the United States through the northern border;
2. improvements needed at ports of entry along the northern border to prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States;
3. gaps in law, policy, international agreements, or tribal agreements that hinder the border security and counterterrorism efforts along the northern border;
4. illegal cross border activity between ports of entry, including the maritime borders of the Great Lakes;
5. the scope of border security challenges that shall include the terrain, population density, and climate along the northern border; and
6. whether additional preclearance and preinspection by the CBP at ports of entry along the northern border could help prevent terrorists and their instruments from entering the United States.

CANADA-U.S. BORDER

Mr. Speaker, at 5,524 miles, the border separating Canada and United States is the longest contiguous international border in the world.

In contrast, the border separating the United States and Mexico is only Mexico border is only 1,951 miles long.

The border with Canada is significantly easier to cross, due to less Border Patrol personnel.

The United States has approximately 1,000 Border Patrol agents assigned to the northern border but more than 11,000 patrolling its southern border with Mexico.

TRAVEL BETWEEN CANADA AND U.S.

In 2009, there were 39,254,000 trips by Canadians to the United States.

In 2010, 20,213,500 Americans traveled to Canada from the United States.

Over 15,700,000 people flew on commercial flights between Canada and the U.S. in 2010.

CANADIAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN U.S.

Current estimates show there to be around 600,000 undocumented Canadian immigrants working in the United States.

Canadian citizens are not required to obtain visas; instead as Canadian citizens they are eligible for visa waivers which do not expire for six months.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, the security of homeland requires that we have increased situational awareness and resources to respond to threats on the nation's northern, as well as southern border.

H.R. 455 makes a positive contribution in this effort and I urge all Members to join me in voting for its passage.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I briefly just want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) for their comments. They echo the sentiments that I believe firmly, that the Homeland Security Subcommittee is probably the most bipartisan committee in Congress. It is an honor to be a part of it. It is an honor to serve with my colleagues I just mentioned and the others.

Every single bill we have has bipartisan support. Every single bill seems to be like we are all on the same page, and that is really important when we have national security issues at hand.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, too often in Congress our debate on border security is long on political rhetoric and short on substance. Development of a substantive and thorough analysis of border security threats is essential to decision-making at all levels about how best to respond. This bill will help us do just that.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 455, the Northern Border Security Review Act, to help us understand and ultimately address any threats along our border with Canada.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 455. This bill is going to form the foundation for properly securing the northern border once and for all.

While our Canadian brothers and sisters are indeed our friends, the fact remains that bad people in Canada are intent on coming to the United States and vice versa and are intent on doing

harm here. We must secure our borders.

Having a 98 percent open border with Canada is absolutely unacceptable. This bill is the first step in moving towards securing that border in a proper manner by making sure that we do a proper analysis once and for all, which I am not sure has ever been done in this manner.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KATKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 455, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BIPARTISANSHIP IN CONGRESS

(Mr. TAKAI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAKAI. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress voted on the reauthorization of the Export-Import Bank. Moments ago we just cleared a bipartisan budget, which now makes its way to the Senate. Through this budget, we lift our debt ceiling and increase our defense and nondefense spending equally for 2 years and we avoid a government shutdown.

I agree with many of my colleagues that we must reduce our Nation's growing debt, but we need to make sure that we do not do so at the expense of our country's future and our ability to compete in a changing global economy.

We, as Congress, need to come together to find long-term, bipartisan, commonsense solutions rather than play politics with our national security, economy, and the well-being of its people.

Tomorrow the House of Representatives votes for a new Speaker. I hope that, under this new leadership, we see a change in how we govern. I hope Congress will no longer shy away from addressing the tough issues. I hope we can come together, both Republicans and Democrats, to get the people's work done.

HEAD START

(Mr. MCNERNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the students, parents, staff, alumni, and supporters of Head Start as they celebrate Head Start Awareness Month and 50 years of service to our Nation's most vulnerable children.

On May 18, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched Project Head Start as an 8-week summer demonstration project to teach low-income students

essential skills to prepare them for kindergarten.

Since that date, Head Start has served 32 million children and families across the country, providing them with the tools they need to build successful futures, helping to ensure a quality education and access to health care and social services. Head Start is a critical investment in the education of our Nation's youngest children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that, as a body, we reaffirm our investment in the children who are the future of this country. I urge my colleagues to support bipartisan efforts to give all of America's children a head start in life and an open door to opportunity.

□ 1815

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CLEAN POWER PLAN

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of President Obama's Clean Power Plan, and I would like to applaud the 10,000 men and women, African American faith leaders, who are engaged, involved, and committed to clean air. These faith leaders represent 13 million African American churchgoers who remain steadfast and unmovable in their cause to combat the negative impact of climate change.

Mr. Speaker, members of the Congressional Black Caucus tomorrow will receive the signatures and public statements of those demanding that this body fully support President Obama's Clean Power Plan. Nearly 40 percent of the 6 million Americans living close to coal-fired power plants are people of color and disproportionately African Americans.

Pollution and damaging toxins from these plants are responsible for thousands of premature deaths, higher risk of asthma attacks, respiratory disease, and hundreds of thousands missed workdays.

I believe this Congress can hear the Black church and work together. The Black church and their fearless leaders for generations have stood united on critical social, economic, and moral imperatives that are meant to strengthen the communities they represent. They have been in the forefront, like Dr. Martin Luther King, who walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with our colleague, JOHN LEWIS, for voting rights.

Climate change and their support for the Clean Power Plan is no different. They are in the forefront. As they state in their letter to us, "The Bible speaks passionately about the importance of stewardship for God's creation," and they believe that Obama's Power Plan calls them to action.

Mr. Speaker, I join with these ladies and gentlemen in their dedication to saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Obama's "Clean Power Plan."

I would like to applaud the more than 10,000 men and women African American faith leaders.

These faith leaders represent 13 million African American churchgoers who remain steadfast and unmovable in their cause to combat the negative impact of climate change.

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The Black Church and their fearless leaders, for generations, have stood united on critical social and economic moral imperatives that are meant to strengthen the communities they represent.

Climate change and their support for the Clean Power Plan are no different.

As they state in their letter to us: "The Bible speaks passionately about the importance of stewardship for God's creation. And President Obama's Clean Power Plan echoes God's call."

Once again, I salute these dedicated men and women of God and for the vital work they are doing on this important issue.

FOCUSING ON WORKING FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, about 1 year ago, Speaker BOEHNER and Senate Majority Leader MCCONNELL described a vision for the 114th Congress. It included "focusing first on jobs and the economy." They looked forward to helping middle class Americans "frustrated by an increasing lack of opportunity, the stagnation of wages, and a government that seems incapable of performing even basic tasks."

In the time since, they have done nothing but protect big businesses enjoy record profits, attack immigrants, and help polluters continue the destruction of our environment.

This body has voted four times in support of the Confederate battle flag, but we have taken no votes on legislation that will level the playing field for

working Americans. This body has voted against a solid, long-term transportation and infrastructure bill five times, and we have taken no votes on legislation to boost American wages. This body has voted countless times to undermine the Affordable Care Act or endanger women's access to health care, but we have taken no votes on legislation to help families balance the needs of work and their personal lives. That is in spite of statements from Members like the Republican nominee for Speaker who just last week indicated he wouldn't run for the position unless he would be allowed to set aside time to spend with his family.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I are here on the floor tonight to call for a shift in focus. We were elected to ensure everyday Americans have a fighting chance and opportunities to succeed. We need to change gears to get to work on an agenda for working families. We need to pass legislation that would give workers the ability to balance work and family needs, bills like the Healthy Families Act, the Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act, the Schedules That Work Act, and the Strong Start for America's Children Act. We need to pass legislation that will give workers paychecks that actually give them a chance to make ends meet, bills like the Raise the Wage Act, the WAGE Act, and the Payroll Fraud Prevention Act.

We need to pass legislation that will give every American a chance to succeed and climb into the middle class regardless of gender, sexual orientation, or any other quality, bills like the Paycheck Fairness Act, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, and the Equality Act.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, you will hear stories from across the country of working families who have played by the rules and worked for long hours and still can't seem to make it work. These experiences are shared with countless others from my district in New Jersey all the way across the Nation to California.

I hope that my colleagues are ready to listen, and, more importantly, I hope they are ready to act.

It is my pleasure to yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. ELLISON).

Mr. ELLISON. I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding. I also would like to thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for her tireless support of the progressive message and her long work in New Jersey, but also here in Congress. Thank you, ma'am.

Mr. Speaker, Working Families Day of Action, the day when we came together to talk about the agenda for working people, is a far cry from what my Republican colleagues like to talk about on a daily basis. But working people in this country need an advocate; they need somebody in Congress to care.

I want to tell a quick story about a young lady in my district. Her name is

Randa Jama, and she is a member of SEIU Local 26, who took a job as a wheelchair attendant at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport last fall with AirServ, a Delta Airlines subcontractor. It was supposed to be a full-time position, but her employer suddenly cut her hours to only 12 hours a week. She explains to me: "They told me that you are working only Saturday and Sunday from now on." Her supervisors would still sometimes ask her at the last minute to stay late or do an extra shift, but she can't work at such short notice even though she needs the hours because it is hard to get access to babysitters. She is a young mom.

Now, on behalf of Randa Jama and many other people, I just want to make a few reflections here today, and that is that things are absolutely out of balance. They are out of balance, and the gap between rich and everybody else is wider now than it has been in decades; and working people, consumers, and environmental advocates are starting to come together to demand good jobs and shared prosperity.

The story today is not necessarily about income inequality. We all know that. But what we may not know is how Americans all over this country are moving, shaking, and doing what they need to do. Whether it is the workers of the Restaurant Opportunities Centers or whether it is WorkingAmerica or whether it is the people in the labor movement, the Fight for \$15, people all over this country—Americans—are not taking this situation lying down.

We are here today to talk about what working families need and what they are doing. They face stagnating wages and struggle to balance the demands at home and on the job. I am very pleased that when it was announced that PAUL RYAN, our colleague, was considering accepting the role of Speaker of the House, he insisted that he would have proper work-life balance and was not going to give up home time. I hope that is a signal that we can pursue a shared agenda of the work-life balance for all families all across America.

Too many lack access to paid sick leave and affordable child care. For workers who don't have a reliable work schedule, it is often impossible to plan and to pay for child care, rent, transportation, and groceries. People are not working enough hours in many cases, and when they get those hours, they often have to choose between leaving their kids at home or taking the hours that they so desperately need. Workers are seeing their right to organize erode.

Here is another opportunity to tell you a good story, which is true, about a friend named Kipp Hedges. Kipp Hedges worked as a baggage handler for 25 years for Delta. He did an awesome job day in and day out and was a member of his union. The people at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport said: Hey, we want to form a union.

The people who pushed the wheelchairs, the folks who drive the disabled

around the airport, and the folks who clean up the airport wanted a union. He said: Well, that is a good effort, and I want to support it.

He got fired. He got fired.

A lot of people who try to organize unions today get fired for engaging in union activity. That is wrong, and it is against the National Labor Relations Act, but people get fired for it anyway. The fact is it takes them a long time to ever get any kind of satisfaction.

In the mid-1950s, you should note that the percentage of workers belonging to unions was about 33 percent. But between 1973 and 2007, private sector union membership plummeted all the way down from about 33, 34 percent down to about 8 percent for men and about from 16 percent to 6 percent for women. It is a devastating situation.

We all know that when people are in unions they make more. People of color in unions make more than people of color not in unions. Women in unions make more money than women not in unions. Even White men in unions, working men, make more money than White men not in unions. The union factor makes a big difference.

The decline is estimated to explain at least one-third of the growth in wage inequality among men and one-fifth of the growth in wage inequality among women. The decline of union density has resulted directly in Americans of all backgrounds having less money in their paychecks.

Now, the American economy is growing. This is the richest country in the world, and it is actually doing pretty well. But the share of that growth has only been going to the very richest few, and it has not been distributed equally.

This is a pivotal moment in our history, and Americans are stepping up to do something about it. We can see clearly now that tax cuts for big corporations won't help working people. We hear all the time, day in and day out, that if you cut taxes for the wealthy and you don't make them obey any health and safety rules, then they will use all that extra money to start businesses, buy inventory, start plants, and buy equipment, and that will give the rest of us jobs. That kind of philosophy has a name. It is called trickle-down economics. It doesn't work now, and it didn't work then. It never works. As a matter of fact, Americans all over are starting to see that a tax cut for a big corporation or a wealthy individual and allowing them to abandon health and safety rules is not going to benefit anybody but them. In fact, it is going to hurt us quite a bit.

Mr. Speaker, we know that deregulation won't help consumers, and we know that it is not going to help the environment. It will leave our consumers at the tender mercies of the business community, and it will leave our communities at the tender mercy of polluters. We can't afford that.

Things are radically out of balance, and working people, consumers, and

environmental advocates need to band together to push back for shared prosperity. We in Congress need to stand with them. One thing we can do is support policies and priorities outlined in the Day of Action. One thing we can do is stand in support of the policy priorities outlined in this Working Families Day of Action, #workingfamilies. We in Congress need to stand with them.

Today we are highlighting bills that would: one, raise wages; two, protect the right to unionize and organize; three, increase access to paid sick leave, family leave, and affordable child care; and, four, promote fair scheduling at the workplace and fight workplace discrimination.

Let me just mention a few steps before I turn it over. On the issue of fair scheduling, this is a big deal. There are more than 23 million workers in low-wage jobs, and two-thirds of these workers are women. Workers in these jobs often face schedules that are rigid, unpredictable, and unstable, which can make it impossible to successfully juggle responsibilities on and off the job.

I just want to say to any small business who worries about fair scheduling: We want to be in conversation with you. We want to talk it out and work it out. We know that sometimes things do come up in unexpected ways. But for sure, we can discuss, as Americans, how to work out a schedule that is a family-friendly schedule and that meets the needs of the business. What we have now is a completely unpredictable environment where people are left either choosing between leaving their kids at home or abandoning those hours that are available.

I also want to mention something about unions. A typical union worker makes 30 percent more than a non-union worker. This is a fact. The companies they work for are thriving and growing. There are tons of union companies all over this country that are making a lot of money. The question is: How big is the CEO's bonus? If we can have some union representation, the company can thrive, but the workers can share in that thriving. Right now, workers are eking a living hand to mouth and paycheck to paycheck, and the CEO bonuses are out of control.

□ 1830

Unionized African American workers make 36 percent more than nonunionized African Americans. Unionized Hispanic women make 46 percent more than nonunionized Hispanic women.

Let me just wrap up with a little quick story because this really is about people, Mr. Speaker. It is about people. It is not just about the stats. It is about people.

This is a worker who was required to have open availability and still can't get the hours. She is required to get open availability and still can't get the hours. Her name is Jill, and she works for JCPenney.

She writes:

My name is Jill Ernst. When I interviewed at JCPenney in Minnesota, part of how I got the job was that I had to have a very flexible schedule.

I was open all 7 days of the week, but now they only give me less than 35 hours. If they give me less than 34.5 hours, it's a struggle to pay rent and my bills. If they put me on the schedule for 28 hours, I have to figure out how to convince my manager to give me more hours or find someone who is willing to give up hours.

My schedule is so inconsistent that, if I need to take paid time off for 1 day, I know that I'll have to take the entire week off or I'll be scheduled a bunch of short days and not be paid for that 1 day off.

Mr. Speaker, we need to stand up for working families, who had a day of action yesterday: #workingfamilies. We know there is inequality. We know the wages have stagnated. We know that it is tough out there for working Americans.

But working Americans aren't sitting around taking it on the chin. They are out there demanding a fair share of this economy, and Congress should stand there with them.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. ELLISON, who has been a very strong and consistent voice on behalf of all working families and, indeed, all of those that are least among us couldn't have a better advocate.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking Congresswoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN for organizing this evening.

Many members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus I hope will be coming down and joining us this evening for a tribute to this Working Families Agenda. Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN listed some of the bills that we have on that agenda.

The problems that working families are facing are not intractable. We know that many working women and men are struggling today, but these problems are not unsurmountable. In fact, they could be solved relatively easily if the Republican majority would work with us to pass legislation that would bring U.S. labor policies in line with the rest of the industrialized world. We have the legislation. We have the public support. We just need action.

One solution, which my colleague, Mr. ELLISON, mentioned is to allow workers to join unions. We know that union members earn more and have better benefits. A study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research found that unionized women earn, on average, \$2.50 more per hour, are 36 percent more likely to have an employer-sponsored benefit plan and 18 percent more likely to have paid sick leave.

Last week I visited with some O'Hare airport workers who came to Washington, baggage handlers, passenger transporters—the people who push the wheelchairs—and others. They are hired by contractors like Prospect Company.

Now, they are wearing uniforms, and it looks to me like they are hired by either the airline or the airport. But, no, they are hired by a private contractor. They don't have paid sick leave or health insurance. One woman in the group earned only \$8.25 an hour after 14 years on the job.

One of their colleagues suffered a miscarriage after her employer refused to give her light duty. The next time she became pregnant, they offered her light duty, but only if she agreed to work only one afternoon a week.

Unionized workers have a different experience. One of the workers in the group was a cabin cleaner hired by Skyline, a union company. He earned fair wages, a pension, and benefits.

We know that these problems can be solved. But I want to talk a little bit about how unstable work schedules contribute to the chaotic life of many workers by telling you about Tanya in a letter I received.

My name is Tanya and I work in an assembly line in a frigid 36-degree warehouse chopping lettuce and other items to create grab'n'go foods destined for display cases in Starbucks, Costco, and Walmart.

I never know much in advance which days I will work, which hours, or even how long my shift will last. Sometimes I may be scheduled for an 8-hour shift, but get only 4 hours of work because my line's order is completed early. Other times I am at work and on my feet for 12 hours.

The unpredictability of my schedule makes it impossible for me to go back to school, which I desperately want to do, because I can't commit to any class schedule. I can't even plan a budget for rent, food or transportation because I have no idea how much money I will make in any given month.

It is terrible when I finish the order early and am sent home without working my full shift. It is even worse when I punch out and hear my supervisor say, "We don't need you tomorrow." My heart sinks. It is the last thing I want to hear. I only make \$9.25 an hour and sometimes I get only 25 hours a week. That isn't even enough to pay my rent.

These are stories that all of us in this Congress need to hear, to digest, to understand what the life of people in our districts is like, and we need to offer solutions that can improve their lives.

They work hard. They are not asking for much. They want good schedules. They want fair wages. They want some benefits. And, yes, even a little retirement security would be good. We could do that. We are the richest country in the world at the richest moment in history.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois. She is always a progressive voice and no greater advocate can we have.

I am now delighted to yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), someone who has been a friend for a very long time and whose work I respect and admire tremendously.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN for all of her work, particularly the work she has done in New Jersey when she was in the State legislature and now in

Congress. I want to thank the Congressional caucus for holding this Special Order on the Working Families Agenda.

Since the Republicans took over the House in January 2011, they have held hearing after hearing to make it harder for workers to form a union, they have attempted over 60 times to repeal the Affordable Care Act, they have been giving tax cuts to the wealthy, and all that time they have been wasting millions of dollars on the Benghazi Committee.

Enough is enough. The American people deserve better. We know that families across America are struggling to make ends meet. Today I am calling on my colleagues across the aisle to get to work on the responsible solutions that hardworking Americans want and need, solutions that would boost wages, help workers achieve a better balance between work and family, and level the playing field so all workers can get a fair shot at success. This is the Working Families Agenda.

This agenda would help workers like India Ford, who is from my district. During the Working Families Day of Action yesterday, she spoke to Members about how she worked nights and weekends for nearly a dozen years in the restaurant industry. As a single mom, this meant not being home for her child to help her with her homework, missing PTA meetings, and not being able to spend time with her daughter before she went to bed.

Finally, she got a new job at a new restaurant with a manager who offered to give her a schedule that worked for her family. And do you know what she did? She selected the lunch shift. This simple change was profound because now she is at home with her daughter at night. She is able to attend school events and able to help with homework.

But basic protections like fair schedules and paid sick leaves shouldn't depend on winning the boss lottery. They should be fundamental rights of every American.

Today workers are more productive than ever, but it has been a long time since most people got a raise. We need to pass legislation to raise the minimum wage. We also need to improve the National Labor Relations Act because, when workers try to organize and form a union to negotiate for a fair share, more than one-third of the time somebody gets fired during the organizational drive.

It is time to strengthen the National Labor Relations Act so that employers might think twice before they retaliate. That is what the Workplace Action for a Growing Economy, or the WAGE Act, would do.

We need to help workers better balance work and family. We need Federal paid sick days and paid family and medical leave laws, which 80 percent of the public supports. Workers need flexible schedules, schedules that work.

It is also past time that we level the playing field so that all working fami-

lies have a fair shot. It is shameful that, in 2015, discrimination still shuts many workers out of good-paying jobs.

No family should live in fear of a breadwinner being fired for being gay, but Federal law still does not provide explicit workplace protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Working people deserve more than just a paycheck. They deserve a decent life. It is time to rewrite the rules to make the economy work for everybody.

Democrats stand ready to take up responsible solutions, like the Working Families Agenda, to boost wages, help workers balance family and work, and level the playing field by eliminating discrimination so that everybody has a fair shot.

In honor of National Work and Family Month, on Thursday, we will introduce a resolution calling on Congress to hold hearings and votes on the Working Families Agenda.

We already have 90 cosponsors on the resolution, and we won't stop there. For as long as it takes, we will continue to call on our colleagues across the aisle to take up the responsible policies that will help people make a better life for themselves and their families.

Again, I want to thank Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and the Congressional Progressive Caucus for coordinating this Special Order hour and thank all of my colleagues in the Democratic Caucus who are standing up for working families.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Thank you very much. As always, you have shared information with us which is illuminating and edifying and, hopefully, convincing of our colleagues that they shall adhere to those things that you were suggesting and recommending.

Mr. Speaker, one of the stories tonight that I have comes from Armando in New Brunswick, New Jersey. For 3½ years, Armando worked at a gas station 7 days a week on the night shift. He got one day off every 3 months. Despite working 46 hours each week, he didn't get overtime pay.

In 2007, when his wife Silvia developed eye problems that required a number of doctors' appointments, Armando's request to leave work early to help with her treatment and recovery was denied.

In order to care for his wife, Armando would come in from work at 6 a.m., leave at 7 a.m. to head to the hospital with Silvia, return home at 7 p.m., and sleep for just 2 hours before doing it all over again.

When he filed a complaint with the Department of Labor, Armando lost his job. On his way out the door, Armando's employer told him he was a good worker. He liked his work, but not the complaint.

Mr. Speaker, no one should have to endure this. No one should have to work endlessly with just 4 days off each year just to make ends meet. No

one should have to choose between caring for a loved one and losing his or her job.

I would like to take this opportunity and share another story with you from New Jersey. This story comes from Josefa, also from New Brunswick, New Jersey. She works in a restaurant in the kitchen and occasionally as a cashier.

When Josefa became pregnant, she had to take 2 months off of work without pay. When she returned, she asked for the morning shift so that she could go home to be with her newborn baby.

They obliged her request, but 2 weeks later they moved her to a 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. shift. With so few hours and traveling long distances to get to the restaurant, Josefa was stuck. She asked her boss for more hours, not a raise or a handout, but the chance to work enough hours to make ends meet.

□ 1845

Despite 5 years in her job, Josefa was told that, if she didn't like it, she could leave.

In Josefa's own words: "I was a single mom, so it was very difficult; and things like this don't just happen to me—they happen to many others. We just make enough to pay the babysitter and rent, but there are so many expenses."

Mr. Speaker, in the greatest Nation in the world, which we are, we can—and we must—do better. We must stand up for those hardworking Americans who don't want a handout but who simply want a level playing field. We have got to stand up for those working Americans who have to work 46 hours a week, who get 3 or 4 days a year off, who are not able to make the decision to be able to care for a sick child, a sick spouse, or a sick parent.

We can do better than that. It doesn't take a lot for us to simply be decent to those who hold up our economy, who do the jobs that we take for granted every single, solitary day; but without those jobs, we would see what is lacking in our lives.

So I ask, Mr. Speaker, that our colleagues in this House—and particularly on the other side of the aisle—spend some time reflecting on what little it is they need to do to simply give our working Americans a fair shake, a fair chance, time with their families, and time to be able to bring their families into the middle class.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RESETTLEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 2015

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to speak tonight on an issue that impacts the safety and the security of our country. There is a grave

threat to our national security that no one seems to want to talk about or to address—we talk around it; we allude to it; we look the other way or vainly hope that it will just go away—but sticking our heads in the sand will not make it go away. Instead, the threat is growing, and a lack of knowledge, foresight, and action on our part could jeopardize the future of our children and our grandchildren. The threat that I am referring to is the Refugee Resettlement Act.

Today, I want to share with my colleagues and the Nation some very important aspects of the Refugee Resettlement Program, which, I hope, will result in serious debate and in an effective reevaluation of our current refugee resettlement policies.

After events like 9/11 and the Boston Marathon bombing, you would think that America would have implemented a more rigorous screening process for allowing entry into the United States. On the contrary, as the world becomes increasingly more dangerous, significant security gaps remain.

President Obama has recently announced his plans to increase from 70,000 to 85,000 the number of refugees allowed into the United States in 2016, next year, and, for 2017, he plans to bring in 100,000. Most of the increase is from Syria and western Iraq, a direct result of the conflict of ISIS and of Mr. Obama's own weak, disjointed foreign policy.

In addition to the alarming national security concerns the resettlement program poses, there are significant costs that will be placed on the U.S. taxpayer and on State and local governments. The numbers that we have seen suggest a large economic burden on Americans, and we don't even know the full extent of all of the costs of this program.

This is why I have introduced H.R. 3314, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015. My bill places an immediate moratorium on the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program until the Government Accountability Office conducts a study to determine the economic costs to the American taxpayer and until Congress analyzes the risks to our national security.

According to the U.S. Refugee Admissions' database, nearly 500,000 new refugees have come into the United States under the Refugee Resettlement Program since President Obama first took office. As a first-term Representative from Texas, I immediately began to investigate this issue because the State of Texas and its taxpayers have been asked to take in more refugees than any other State.

I found out that no one was asking—much less answering—the questions of who, how, when, where, and how much regarding these refugees. I also found out that aspects of this program are very hard to determine even by the government agencies supposedly overseeing it, mainly because these agen-

cies contract and provide funding to nongovernmental organizations to administer the program and because the United Nations gets to choose the majority of the refugees who enter the United States.

Since the Resettlement Act was signed into law by then-President Jimmy Carter in 1980, more than 3 million refugees from Third World countries have been permanently resettled in the United States; and as I said earlier, nearly 500,000 refugees in just the last 6½ years of the Obama administration have been resettled by private Federal contractors across this country in over 190 towns and communities whose local citizens have little to no say in the matter.

The private government-contracted organizations that administer the Refugee Resettlement Program and choose the locations of resettlement within the United States are nonprofit groups. However, these nonprofits are paid, literally, millions of Federal dollars. I am very troubled by the Refugee Resettlement Act's cost to America.

The stark financial problems of our nearly \$19 trillion national debt argue against asking the American taxpayer to take on the further financial burden of tens of billions of dollars for refugee resettlement. According to official statistics published by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, or ORR, more than 90 percent of recent refugees from the Middle East are on welfare. This is alarming from a budgetary standpoint alone.

The Congressional Research Service's memo that was issued to the Senate Judiciary Committee on the Office of Refugee Resettlement Admissions from the Department of Health and Human Services revealed that 74.2 percent of all refugees up until the year 2013 received food stamps while 56 percent received some sort of medical assistance. The very next year, in 2014, the ORR reported that 92 percent of Middle Eastern refugees were on food stamps, and over 68 percent received direct cash assistance.

According to the ORR's annual report to Congress for fiscal year 2013, the majority of the refugees who enter the United States are without any income or assets to support themselves and are given benefits paid for by State-administered programs.

Families who have children under the age of 18 are eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, program. Refugees who are older, blind, or disabled are eligible for Medicaid benefits and Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, whose trust fund right now is nearing insolvency. The Federal Government does not reimburse States for the costs or for Medicaid programs, which places a huge economic drain on the State governments. As a former mayor and local school board member, I know of the strain this places on local municipalities and school systems as well.

Refugees in certain States who do not meet the specifications listed

above, such as single adults, childless couples, and two-parent families, are still eligible to receive benefits under the Refugee Cash Assistance, or RCA, and Refugee Medical Assistance, or RMA, programs for up to the first 8 months that a refugee is in the United States. While the States are reimbursed for these programs, they cost U.S. taxpayers about \$302.4 million each year.

For 2013, the Office of Refugee Resettlement allocated \$400 million for transitional and medical services, \$150 million for social services, and nearly \$50 million in targeted assistance. Along with several other allotments, the total refugee appropriation was over \$620 million.

What many Americans do not realize is that refugees are eligible for lawful permanent residence, or LPR, status and for all Federal benefits after being here 1 year in the United States. In addition, if they have children born here in the United States, they are eligible for benefits as well. Robert Rector of the respected Heritage Foundation puts the cost of accepting just 10,000 Syrian refugees at more than \$6.5 billion for a lifetime of costs.

Again, I ask: Is this wise for a country that is nearly \$19 trillion in debt?

It sounds noble for the Obama administration to propose bringing in more refugees next year, yet there is no full accounting or transparency over what this will cost the taxpayers at the Federal, State, or local level. In a critical time when we must be economically responsible and prioritize our finite resources accordingly, allocating over a half a billion dollars for a program with unknown consequences is not the best use of our government resources.

The question at the end of the day is: Can we really afford not to take a further look at the resettlement program?

Let's also take a few minutes to examine the national security threats of this.

Perhaps even more disconcerting than the enormous costs are the numerous security risks posed by accepting refugees without properly screening or vetting them. As entire regions of the Middle East dissolve into chaos, the ability to conduct the proper vetting of refugees by verifying places of origin, political orientations, criminal records, or sometimes even basic identities is, all too often, simply nonexistent.

Already, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, FBI Director James Comey, and Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson have testified under oath that they cannot properly screen the refugees who are streaming out of these war-torn areas of the Middle East.

FBI Director James Comey said he had serious concerns about bringing in refugees from conflict zones. We cannot just call up the Damascus or Libyan police department and run background checks on these refugees from conflict zones. There is already a very

good chance that, of the 70,000 refugees per year coming into the United States, terrorists and ISIS followers who are posing as refugees may have slipped through the gaps.

ISIS has promised that it will exploit this refugee crisis, and it has already, indeed, been caught attempting to do so. According to a senior Lebanese official, at least 20,000 jihadists have already infiltrated the Syrian refugee camps and are plotting to enter Western Europe. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, jihadist groups typically target European countries that have generous and liberal immigration policies and that are allies of the United States.

In line with this, the *Hurriyet Daily News*, in Turkey, stated this past February that the Turkish intelligence service had warned police that 3,000 trained jihadists were attempting to cross into Turkey from Syria and Iraq and then make their way into Western Europe to target countries involved in the U.S.-led anti-Islamic State coalition. What is even more alarming is that the news publication reports that some of the members of the group, including their leaders, have already entered Turkey and have already established cells of terrorist operation.

Palestinians and citizens from Syria who are between the ages of 17 to 25 have entered Turkey as refugees and plan to travel to Europe through Bulgaria in order to attack anti-ISIS coalition-member countries. In fact, one ISIS operative has claimed more than 4,000 covert ISIS gunmen have been smuggled into Western nations and are currently hiding amongst innocent refugees. He then warned “just wait,” according to the *International Business Times*.

In May, the *International Business Times* also cited Libyan Government adviser Abdul Basit Haroun, who warned that ISIS operatives were being smuggled into Europe by boat. Haroun said that ISIS militants are taking advantage of the crisis by using boats for their own operatives whom they want to send to Europe, and the European authorities can't differentiate between those from ISIS and the actual refugees. If this is not disturbing, then I don't know what is.

□ 1900

There are also thousands of former refugees who have settled in Europe over the past several decades now going to join ISIS in the Middle East. According to Gilles de Kerchove, the European Union's counterterrorism chief, nearly 4,000 Europeans are estimated to have left Western Europe and gone and joined ISIS.

We have even seen this in the United States refugee settlement communities as well. In Minneapolis, Minnesota, there have been 22 young Somali men that we know of since 2007 that left their new refugee home in the United States to join the terrorist organization al Shabaab.

In Somalia, they are fighting against U.S. allies and U.S.-trained troops. There are 27,000 Somali refugees in the Minneapolis area, and President Obama's plans call for thousands more.

In Texas, 37-year-old Bilal Abood is an Iraqi American who is suspected to have come to the United States as a refugee or an asylum seeker in the year 2009. When the FBI went to his home, they found evidence of ties with ISIS, including pledging an oath to its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

A former cab driver in Virginia, Liban Haji Mohamed, who came to the United States as a Somali refugee, is on the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist list for providing material support to al Qaeda and al Shabaab. He is considered particularly dangerous because he worked to recruit other U.S. terrorists for these terrorist organizations. He lived in Alexandria, Virginia, just a few miles across the river from where I am standing right now.

According to Mike Mauro, a professor of homeland security and national security analyst at the Clarion Project, a poll was conducted in November of 2014 of 900 Syrian refugees. In this poll of recent refugees, 13 percent, or roughly one out of seven, claim to have sympathies toward ISIS. Alarmingly and incredibly, that amounts to a potential 130 ISIS sympathizers.

The Immigration and Nationality Act, known as the INA, specifies that applicants for the resettlement program be subject to various grounds of inadmissibility, including criminal, security, and public health grounds.

The grounds of inadmissibility applying to refugee applicants include the broad terrorism-related inadmissibility grounds, or TRIG, in section 212 of the INA, the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Very disturbing is the fact that, beginning in 2005, the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the Department of Justice began exercising their discretionary authority to waive these categories of inadmissibility for refugee applicants.

Then, in 2015, the Department of Homeland Security began implementing new additional exemptions for individuals if they only provided insignificant or certain limited material support to terrorists—this includes routine commercial and social transactions—or provided humanitarian assistance to undesignated terrorist organizations.

As of this past June, the United States Government has granted more than 15,560 TRIG exemptions to refugee applicants. That is right. More than 15,000 times the Government of the United States has waived past participation with terrorist organizations so that refugees could come and enter into the United States. This must stop.

The warning signs are everywhere of the potential of terrorist suspects posing as refugees while President Obama redoubles his efforts to bring these people in the United States and put at risk

the lives and safety of the American people.

We have recently had two terrorist gunmen in Garland, Texas, who linked themselves to ISIS; the shooter in Chattanooga, Tennessee, who killed five U.S. servicemembers, recruiters; and the Tsarnaev brothers in the Boston Marathon bombing, who killed three spectators and injured an estimated 260 others. What we need to ask ourselves is: How did the Federal Government fail the American people with respect to vetting these refugees?

Of course, not all refugees are Islamic jihadists. Indeed, most are not. But the few that are pose a very real threat to the safety and security of the American people. The 9/11 terrorist attackers numbered 19, the Boston terrorists only 2.

As elected representatives, our responsibility to the American citizens and our communities should be our number one priority.

The Refugee Resettlement Program has long operated under the radar of most Americans. The average American has no idea that this resettlement program is a U.N. plan that chooses which refugees come to the United States and that the United States taxpayer foots the bill.

But as it has grown over the last few years and its implementation has become a threat to small communities, saddling them with the problems that refugee resettlement brings without their say-so and often even without their knowledge, residents in several States, including Texas, are starting to ask hard questions.

No longer satisfied with past answers, they are showing up at townhall meetings, starting blogs and email lists, digging up information and informing their friends and neighbors of what is really going on with refugee resettlement in such diverse American communities as Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota; Lewiston, Maine; Amarillo, Texas; the State of Idaho; and many other locations, just to name a few.

To really see what America's future will be, we have to look no further than western Europe, which has taken in over half a million refugees just this year, not to mention the millions over the past decades.

A very popular destination for refugees coming to Europe is Sweden. The country is currently facing a large-scale refugee crisis, and the government does not know where these refugees will live, how they will work, and who will foot the bill for them.

According to Boverket, the Swedish National Board of Housing, Building and Planning, Sweden needs to build half a million homes by the year 2020. This costly housing initiative will cost about \$387 million a year and will only fund half of this by 2020.

Sweden is also known for its horrific rape numbers. Recent refugees—and now their Swedish-born children—are responsible for more than half of those convicted of rape, murder, and robbery.

Clearly, the existing approach to addressing the plight of refugees is simply not working. Are these really the sort of problems that we want here at home and the United States?

Again, I am not saying that brutal rapes, gang violence, and domestic terror are the norms, but, rather, they are the risks that have been seen in Europe that come along with accepting large numbers of refugees without proper vetting and screening.

While refugee crises are tragic, crimes committed by transplanted people against unsuspecting, unprotected victims in their own country are even more tragic.

The five wealthiest countries on the Arabian Peninsula—Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain—have not taken in a single refugee that we know of.

Instead, they have argued that accepting large numbers of Syrians is a threat to their safety, as terrorists could be hiding within an influx of people.

The only help so far from Saudi Arabia is an offer to build 200 mosques in Germany. It is quite apparent that the fear of importing terrorists is real for American communities if Syria's own neighbors will not admit these refugees.

My investigation of the refugee resettlement policies have also led to a concern for the most persecuted religious minority in the entire Middle East region: Christians.

Of the nine nongovernmental organizations which receive Federal grants and contracts to resettle refugees, six are designated religious charities. However, I could find no mission statements from any of them about saving Christians.

The U.N. connection could explain why so many non-Christian refugees are chosen to be brought into the United States while persecuted Christians in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and other nations there have a very hard time getting within sight of the Statue of Liberty.

In fact, the glaring shortcoming of the U.N. refugee program is that it falls short of helping one of the most persecuted groups around the world, and that is Christians.

According to reporting by Nina Shea and Elliott Abrams, the United Nations High Commission on Refugees refuses to classify Christians as a persecuted group eligible for resettlement on this basis.

Why? Because our Department of State chooses to adhere to a definition of refugees as people persecuted by their own government. The murders of Christian men, the rapes of Christian women, and the butchery of Christian children apparently do not count. These people are routinely beheaded, crucified, burned at the stake, sold into slavery, or have their property confiscated.

In Iraq, ISIS has blown up dozens of churches, kidnapped Christians and

held them for ransom, even after they have already murdered them. Last summer they started marking Christian homes with a red letter "N" for "Nazarene" before they took the homes and exiled the owners.

Unfortunately, for many Christians, exile is a better option than the inhumane atrocities that many in the region are currently facing. Many are sexually enslaved by ISIS, like Kayla Mueller.

Kayla Mueller was a Christian American human rights activist from Prescott, Arizona. She was taken captive in August 2013 by ISIS in Syria after leaving a Doctors Without Borders hospital. After she was taken by the terrorist group, she was repeatedly raped by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, who is the leader of ISIS.

There are still many other Christian ISIS prisoners, including 460 taken from Syria and many more who have already been killed. Many have been taken by al Shabaab in Africa. Pope Francis has even gotten involved and is calling this targeting of Christians a form of genocide.

Many Christians who want to flee persecution face the difficult decision of where to turn and where will they be safe.

A decision of how to flee and what mode of transportation to take can be critical to Christian families. It was reported this past April that 12 Christian migrants trying to get to Europe by boat were simply thrown overboard by fellow Muslim migrants and drowned.

Most are afraid to go to the U.N. refugee camps and fear the actions taken by some of their more radicalized Muslim neighbors within the camps. There are very few Christians in these camps and other non-Muslims because they fear for their own personal safety.

Unfortunately for these persecuted religious minorities, the only persons able to qualify easily for U.N. refugee resettlement are those people who are in these U.N. refugee camps. There in the camp they can be designated as priority 1 eligible by the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, and then they qualify for resettlement.

This is critical to know because the U.N. refugee camps are the only source from which the U.S. will accept U.N. refugees under this resettlement act. Since very few Christians feel safe in these camps, it is apparent that this is the reason that less than 4 percent of the U.N. resettled refugees are Christians.

Former Archbishop George Carey of Canterbury said it best when he stated that this inadvertently discriminates against the very Christian communities most victimized by the inhuman butchers of the so-called Islamic State.

It is a sad reality for Christians in this part of the world right now. They are so desperate to leave that they have said that they will go almost anywhere except the U.N. camps to try to rebuild their lives.

There is another method, however, other than the resettlement act by

which it is possible to admit Christians and other groups into the U.S. as refugees. The U.S. State Department has the authority to designate certain groups like Christians as priority 2 refugees, which would enable them to enter the United States without having to be living in a U.N. refugee camp.

The U.S. State Department needs to act on this immediately. It defies logic that we would want to potentially import the problems of the Middle East into the very heart of America.

□ 1915

The recent terrorist attacks in Garland, Texas; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Oklahoma City, and the Boston Marathon should serve as a dire warning.

A report submitted by the Obama administration for proposed refugee admissions says that in the year 2014 the median age of refugees from Iraq and Syria was 28 and 23, respectively, and over half of these refugees were of working age, between 16 years and 64 years of age. In fact, according to U.N. statistics, 65 percent of these Syrian refugees are military-age males, who should be defending their own country and pose a risk of having ISIS infiltrators among them.

Again, we don't need to look any further than Europe for all the evidence that we need to see the dire consequences for this program to American safety and security.

According to the Gatestone Institute, half a million known migrants and refugees came to the European Union in the first 8 months of 2015. This number will most likely reach 1 million by the end of this year, and this does not include the number of individuals who slipped in undetected.

Of the maritime arrivals in Europe, the top countries of origin are Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Nigeria, Albania, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, and Iraq. For the refugees who arrived by land, the top three countries of origin are Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan.

There has been much criminal activity, including multiple cases of rape, among refugee camps. On August 6 of this year, police finally reported that a young 13-year-old girl was raped by another asylum seeker at a refugee facility in Detmold, Germany. The rape actually had taken place in June, but the police had kept quiet about it for several months, not wanting to alarm the German local population. It was only after a local media outlet had published this story about the crime that it came to light.

According to German social work organizations, large numbers of women and young girls housed in refugee shelters in Germany are being raped, sexually assaulted, or forced into prostitution by male asylum seekers.

An editorial comment in the German newspaper Westfalen-Blatt said police are refusing to go public about the crimes involving refugees because they don't want to give legitimacy to criticism of the dangers of mass, unchecked migration from the Middle East.

In this refugee population, there are many elements that neither Europe nor the United States would ever invite in, and the challenge is separating them. Europe is dealing with a stark reality that it does not want to face and would prefer to turn a blind eye.

Police in the Bavarian town of Mering have issued a warning to German parents not to allow their children to go outside unaccompanied. In another Bavarian town of Pocking, administrators at the Wilhelm-Diess-Gymnasium have told parents not to let their daughters wear revealing clothes to avoid “misunderstandings” by the large number of refugees in their town.

These are not the only troubling actions unfolding in Germany, a country which has pledged to take more refugees than any other country in the European Union. Levels of violent crime brought about by the groups from the Balkans and the Middle East have turned certain cities such as Duisburg into no-go zones for police, according to a police report from their headquarters in the North Rhine-Westphalia region. This is the most populous state in Germany. This report states that the ability of the police to maintain public order “cannot be guaranteed over the long term,” according to *Der Spiegel*, the newsmagazine which leaked the report.

There are districts where immigrant gangs are taking over entire metro trains for themselves. Local residents and businesspeople are being intimidated and silenced. People taking trams during the evening and nighttime describe their experiences as living nightmares. Policemen, and especially policewomen, are subject to high levels of aggressiveness and disrespect.

Unassimilated refugees and immigrants have turned large sections of Europe's great cities into no-go zones where even the police will not go. Jewish emigration from France is the highest since World War II.

In the near term, nothing will change, according to this report. The reasons for this: the high rate of unemployment, the lack of job prospects for immigrants without qualifications for the German labor market, and ethnic tensions among the migrants themselves. The Duisburg police department now wants to reinforce its presence on the streets and track offenders much more consistently than before.

I am not suggesting that every refugee or even the majority of these refugees are engaged in such criminal activity. It is a very small number. But what I am suggesting is that there are some among them who have terrorist intentions that have infiltrated these communities, and it is difficult to screen them out. Even one is too many.

President Obama's plan is a potential national disaster waiting to happen. No one is saying that we should not help those who are in refugee camps. We should. America is the most generous and compassionate country in the

world. We already are spending \$4.5 billion in humanitarian aid, food, shelter, and medicine for these displaced persons in these refugee camps. What we should not do is endanger the American people and the safety of our children and our grandchildren.

Each of us serving in this body took an oath to support and defend the Constitution against enemies, both foreign and domestic, and ISIS has already exploited this U.N. program to infiltrate Europe. We have a sworn duty to prevent foreign enemies from entering the United States and allowing them to become domestic enemies, particularly at taxpayer expense. The President's plan and the current policy of the Refugee Resettlement Act defies all logic.

I am sure that I will be criticized and attacked for making this speech and sharing these very disturbing facts with you today, but I am compelled by the oath of office that I took when I was sworn in as a Member of the United States Congress to put the safety and security of the American people above political correctness.

I didn't come to Congress to be politically correct. I came to uphold the U.S. Constitution and to protect our national security. Protecting our American way of life, the greatest experiment in liberty and freedom in all human history, is our highest calling as elected leaders of this great Nation.

Those who criticize me for these remarks should instead turn their criticism toward those who are exploiting refugees and to the terrorists who are infiltrating these very refugees who are entering Europe and the United States.

I encourage my colleagues to further investigate the Federal Refugee Resettlement Program and to join me in calling for a moratorium on the President's proposal while we fully examine the costs to the American taxpayer and the national security implications of his policies.

Let us reassert our congressional authority over the refugee program and put the safety and security of the American people above all else. It is crucial that Congress take a look at the results of my proposed reassessment of the Refugee Resettlement Program, its cost to the American taxpayer, its threat to our national security, and its impact on our small towns and communities by passing H.R. 3314, the Resettlement Accountability National Security Act of 2015.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

THE HONORABLE FRANK M. JOHNSON, THE HIDDEN HAND OF JUSTICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. AL GREEN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership for allowing us to have this time to discuss H. Con.

Res. 84. This recognizes the works of the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, a Federal judge.

Not only was he a Federal judge, he was one of the greatest unsung heroes of the civil rights movement, a lawyer par excellence, a great student of jurisprudence, and, I would daresay, he was the hidden hand of justice in the civil rights movement.

Before continuing, however, let me just thank some additional persons. It is appropriate that I thank the six original cosponsors of this resolution. Of course, we would mention the Honorable ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida, and we thank him for signing on to this resolution. We also would like to thank the Honorable SHEILA JACKSON LEE of Texas, the Honorable GREGORY MEEKS of New York, the Honorable ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON of Washington, D.C., and I especially want to thank the Honorable TERRI SEWELL of Alabama, because Judge Johnson was from Alabama. She has signed on to this resolution, meaning that she has given her approval. I am grateful to her. She is a great, great Member of this body and has done quite well in representing the people of her district and, indeed, her State and her country. And, finally, the Honorable FEDERICA WILSON of Florida. All of these Members have signed on to this resolution honoring the Honorable Frank M. Johnson.

The Honorable Frank M. Johnson was a unique person in American history, unique in that he was one of those people that made real the great and noble American ideals: liberty and justice for all; government of the people, by the people, for the people. He truly—he truly—made justice more than a word. It meant something to him, and, as a result, people were able to benefit from justice. Justice was more than a word for the Honorable Frank Johnson.

He did not have it easy, however. He was appointed to this Federal District Court by the Honorable President Dwight Eisenhower in November of 1955. After being appointed, he immediately had a very difficult case come before him. This is when we learned of the character of Frank M. Johnson. His character was such that he refused to allow himself to be intimidated.

Over the course of his life, he had a cross burned on the lawn of his yard. Over the course of his life, and he lived for 80 years, his mother's house was bombed. It was thought that it was his home. It was bombed by the KKK. He was a person who had, as a classmate in law school, Governor George Wallace.

He was a person who probably could not have been predicted to be one of the most significant persons in the civil rights movement at the time he was appointed to the bench. There are people who, for whatever reasons, decide that they are going to do the just and honorable thing, and Frank M. Johnson was such a person.

While he lived, he had to have 24-hour protection—24-hour protection—

for his very life because there were those who saw him as a threat to the way of life that existed at that time. They wanted to end his life because of his being perceived as a threat to their way of life.

What is it about him that caused people to want to burn a cross on his lawn, that caused persons to bomb his mother's house thinking that it was his? What was it about this man that caused people to believe that he was such a huge instrumentality that was moving the South in a direction that they did not want to see it move into?

Well, he was one of those persons who actually proved, Mr. Speaker, that Black lives matter. He proved that Black lives were as important as any other lives, that all lives matter, but he proved that Black lives matter by his decisions that he made.

I indicated earlier that one of his first decisions, Mr. Speaker, was a difficult one. It was a case that involved the bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. It was a case wherein Rosa Parks, the Alabama female of African ancestry, took a seat on a bus; and after taking that seat, she was required to move because, as others came on the bus who were White, she would have to move, as would any other Black person, and give White persons an opportunity to have seats on the bus. She would either have to move back or, if all of the other seats were filled, she would have to stand. She refused.

As a result of that refusal, Mr. Speaker, a civil rights movement was born in Montgomery, Alabama, and a protest movement was led by the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King. As a result of this protest movement, many people galvanized. They came together, and they decided that they would not ride the buses and that they would transport themselves to and from work.

Well, one might think that this boycott was the reason that the bus line was eventually integrated after about a year of protestations. But, Mr. Speaker, the hidden hand of justice was the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, because he, on a three-judge panel, concluded that the Brown decision, which applied to schools, should be applied to public accommodations, should be applied to public transportation. He convinced another judge to do so, and, as a result, they issued an order that desegregated the buses in Montgomery, Alabama.

□ 1930

He was the hidden hand of justice. The protest movement was absolutely necessary, but he showed that Black lives mattered when he decided that he was going to stand for justice and that he was going to issue that order integrating the bus lines.

Later on, in the case of Gomillion v. Lightfoot, this is a case that invalidated the City of Tuskegee's plan to dilute Black voting strength.

At that time, it was not unusual for Black voting strength to be diluted

such that Blacks could not get representation. We were not represented in Congress to the extent that we are today.

At that time, gerrymandering was almost commonplace to make sure that Blacks did not have the opportunity to represent constituents in city councils, and not only city councils, but in county government, as State Representatives, as State Senators, gerrymandering.

Well, it was the Honorable Frank M. Johnson that invalidated that plan that they had and ordered the redrawing of the lines.

In the United States v. Alabama, in 1961, literacy tests were required for Blacks, but they weren't required for Whites. Blacks had to take the test, which was impossible to pass, in many cases. How many bubbles are there in a bar of soap, all sorts of ridiculous things, were required of Blacks.

But this judge, the hidden hand of justice, the man who believed that Black lives mattered, required Black people be registered to vote to the same extent as the least qualified White person was registered to vote. Allowing Black people to register allowed more Black representation to manifest itself in the years that followed.

In the case of Lewis v. Greyhound, 1961, this case involved the Honorable JOHN LEWIS, who is now a Member of Congress. It involved protesting at a bus station. It involved being seated at a counter and involved desegregating the bus lines and the bus stations. JOHN LEWIS was one of several persons who were arrested, and this violated his civil rights.

It was the Honorable Frank M. Johnson that required the desegregation of the bus depots across the length and breadth of the country. By directly doing it in Montgomery, Alabama, it eventually became the law across the land.

Again he demonstrated that Black lives mattered to him, and he moved on it. He didn't just believe it. He acted on his beliefs.

In the case of Sims v. Frink, in 1962, this had to do with Alabama reapportioning. Alabama had not reapportioned since 1900. The lines had been left as they were because, by leaving them as they were, they could keep certain people from having a right to vote or having their vote really count in the scheme of one man, one vote.

It was Frank M. Johnson who required that one man, one vote, principles be utilized, giving Black people a greater voice in voting.

In Lee v. Macon County Board of Education, in 1963, this was the first statewide desegregation of schools, and it happened in Alabama. It happened because Frank M. Johnson concluded that Black lives mattered. He ordered the desegregation of these schools, and it was the beginning of something that would spread across this country.

He was a part of the avant-garde of the civil rights movement, but he did

so with a pen from the bench. As a matter of fact, he did not wear a robe when he was on the bench and he did not have a gavel. He believed that, if you are a just judge and you are going to follow the law, you didn't need the robe and you didn't need the gavel. You just needed to follow the law. And he did so.

He did so in the case of Williams v. Wallace. This is a landmark case in that it involved the Honorable Dr. Martin Luther King.

As we know now, persons assembled at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. They assembled there for the purpose of marching from Selma to Montgomery. When they assembled at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they decided that, in marching from Selma to Montgomery, they would assemble themselves at a church, and they marched from that church to the bridge.

If you have not been to the Edmund Pettus Bridge, you should do so because, as you do so, you will see that that bridge has an arch. As you move across the bridge, you can't see from the start of your movement to the bridge what lies on the other side.

But on the other side of the Edmund Pettus Bridge were men, members of the constabulary. They were on horses. They had clubs. And these men on horses, with clubs, confronted the marchers, who were peaceful. They were unarmed.

They were Black. They were White. They were multi-ethnic in terms of their ethnicity. They were persons of goodwill who only wanted to exercise their freedom of movement to demonstrate, to move from one city to another, protesting the way African Americans were being treated in the South in terms of their voting rights, in terms of their inability to receive the same treatment as others under the law.

Well, in doing this, in marching from Selma to Montgomery, when they encountered these officers with clubs, these officers beat them.

The Honorable JOHN LEWIS was a part of the march. He has said on many occasions that he thought he was going to die.

They beat them all the way back to the church where they started—all the way back to the church—blood on their heads, on their bodies, on the ground, on people, as they tried to flee and tried to fend for themselves against these members of the constabulary.

The marchers returned later to march again, but this time they had gone to court and they had appeared before the Honorable Frank M. Johnson. He issued an order requiring the constabulary to get out of the way and allow the marchers to move from Selma to Montgomery.

Few people are aware that Bloody Sunday was followed by an order from the hidden hand of justice, the Honorable Frank M. Johnson. I would dare say that that order and that movement, that march, were the basis for

the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1965. It passed shortly thereafter.

The President signed it into law. As a result, many people who are in Congress today are here because that march took place and because the Honorable Judge, the hidden hand of justice, Frank M. Johnson, signed an order requiring the constabulary to get out of the way.

What is interesting about this order, Mr. Speaker, is that it was issued by his classmate, whom I mentioned earlier, Governor George Wallace. Governor George Wallace and Frank M. Johnson were at constant odds with each other. They were at odds with each other not only as it related to this march, but as it related to the integration of schools.

As a matter of fact, there were many people in Alabama who were of goodwill who started to call Frank M. Johnson the real Governor of Alabama because he stood toe to toe with Governor Wallace and, in so doing, made real what the Governor had the opportunity to do, but refused to do.

The Honorable Frank M. Johnson, the hidden hand of justice in Alabama and the United States of America.

In *White v. Cook*, 1966, he ruled that Blacks should be allowed to and must serve on juries in Alabama. Black people have not always had the opportunity to serve, even when the law said they had the right to serve.

As a result of not having the right to serve by virtue of the way people interpreted the law, they were denied service on juries. It was the Honorable Frank M. Johnson that permitted this to happen by his ruling.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have left?

I would like to make sure that I properly cover certain materials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Frank M. Johnson, in making this ruling that allowed Blacks to serve on juries, was taking a giant step forward in that he was bringing Black people into the courthouse and they were now allowed to come right in and go right in and sit up front.

Black people haven't always been able to go into the courthouse and sit on the front row. They haven't always been respected when they have been in the courtroom.

In my lifetime, I have heard African American lawyers referred to as "Boy" in the courtrooms of this country.

In my lifetime, I have seen African American lawyers required to wait while White lawyers were being served. In my lifetime, I have seen some things that I am not proud of.

But, in my lifetime, I have seen great changes take place, and many of these changes took place because of people like Frank M. Johnson, unsung heroes, people who have not received the kinds of accolades, the kinds of kudos, that they merit for the actions that they

took and the bravery that they exhibited.

But tonight I want to make sure that at least one person who was an unsung hero gets the notoriety that he deserves. Of course, I am speaking of the Honorable Frank M. Johnson.

In 1966, *United States v. Alabama*, he ruled that the poll tax was unconstitutional, the poll tax. At one time, you had to pay a tax to vote. Unfortunately, that time has returned.

In my State, the State of Texas, we now have a poll tax. That time has returned. Frank M. Johnson declared it unconstitutional, giving Black people the right to vote without having to pay a fee.

Well, in my State, the State of Texas, we find now that, if you want to vote and you don't have a license to carry a gun and you don't have certain other IDs, well, you will have to then acquire an ID to vote. And while the State of Texas will provide at no cost a certain type of ID, these IDs are predicated upon your having proof of birth, a birth certificate.

I took the test myself. I went to the polls to vote, and I went to the polls without my voter registration intentionally, I might add, and I voted a provisional ballot.

I was given time to go out and acquire the proper identification. I did it knowing that I would bring the proper identification, and I did so. And I voted timely. But I did this because I wanted to see what does one go through to simply get a birth certificate.

Well, I applied for my birth certificate. I was born in the State of Louisiana. I applied for it and, to this day, I have not received my birth certificate. This was about a year ago that I applied for it. I still have not received it from the State of Louisiana. I applied for it, paid the fee.

Now, why am I saying it is a poll tax? Because in the State of Texas, if you get your birth certificate from the State of Texas, then there is a provision for indigent persons to acquire the certificate and the ID and you can do this without a fee.

But if you are from out of state, you have got to pay that fee to that out-of-state agency to get your birth certificate so that you can get it to the State of Texas and you can get your ID.

The point is paying for the right to vote is a poll tax. No one should have to pay to vote, no one. Frank M. Johnson outlawed the poll tax in the State of Alabama.

I pray that we have some other Frank M. Johnsons on the bench who will eventually outlaw the poll tax in the State of Texas because, to Frank M. Johnson, Black lives mattered. They mattered.

They ought to matter to other people who understand that invidious discrimination still exists, that people are finding clever ways to keep people from voting today, just as they did many, many years ago.

□ 1945

The struggle for human rights, human dignity, civil rights is not over. There are still challenges before us. There are still people who are in high places who are making it difficult for people to vote.

I thank God for the Frank M. Johnsons of the world who are willing to stand for justice and make it possible for people to have the same right to vote as other people have had in this country for many years.

I know that there are some who would say: "Well, you have got the right to vote; you ought to have an ID." Well, I don't have a problem with people having an ID. I do have a problem when you have to pay for that ID so that you can vote. Voting is separate, and it is sacred in this country. We ought not require people to have to pay a fee to acquire an ID so that they can vote.

So he declared the poll tax unconstitutional in 1966.

In 1970, in *Smith v. the YMCA of Montgomery*, he ordered the desegregation of the Montgomery chapter of the YMCA.

The YMCA has not always had its doors open to Blacks, and many of the institutions in this country who did open doors opened only the back door. I know. I have been to the back doors. I know what it is like to go to a bus station and have to go to the back door. I know what it is like to go to a food service establishment and have to go to the back door to get your food. I have been there. I know what it is like to travel across country and to have to pick your places to stop because in certain places it was known that you were not permitted to stop; and in those places where you were permitted to stop, you would have to use back doors a good amount of the time.

So I know what discrimination looks like. I have seen the face of discrimination, and I understand how it hurts people. I understand the pain that is inflicted upon people. I am proud that we can now go through front doors because of judges like Frank M. Johnson, who had the courage to order the desegregation of public accommodation facilities in this country. I am so proud that there are unsung heroes who took a stand when others would simply conclude that this is not the right time, the country is not ready.

There were many other judges who could have taken the same position that Frank M. Johnson took, but they didn't do so. It takes courage to do the righteous thing. Frank M. Johnson was a righteous person, and he had the courage to do the righteous thing.

In the case of the *NAACP v. Dothard*, which required Alabama to hire one Black State trooper for every White State trooper, which was to be done until parity was achieved, it was the Honorable Frank M. Johnson that ordered this be done.

Frank M. Johnson understood the necessity to have the DPS in Alabama

demonstrate diversity. He understood that if you have a diverse police department, Department of Public Safety, that you are going to get people there who can help other people be better people. It was by doing this that we got more Blacks into the Department of Public Safety in Alabama and, as a result, across the country later on. He had the courage to do this because he knew that Black lives matter.

Now, this is not to say that only a certain color of person is going to make a good peace officer, not true. People of all hues, of all ethnicities, of all races, of all creeds can make good peace officers. But there are some who are not good, and those have to be removed from their positions. You ought not have people who don't respect all people, but especially at this time when we are seeing so many things happen to Black people, that don't understand that Black lives matter.

I cannot resist the temptation to avoid speaking about what happened to that young girl in South Carolina. I think the sheriff did the right thing. He has removed that officer from his department. But there is something about that case that I think we need to talk about very briefly, tersely, this: If the camera's eye had not been there, I conclude, I prognosticate, he would not have been fired. He would not have been fired without the camera's eye.

The sheriff, himself, said that two adults who were there, who saw what happened—two adults, one a teacher—said they thought the officer's behavior was correct. They didn't have a problem with the officer's behavior. It was the eye of the camera, Mr. Speaker, that made the difference. The camera brings to us what we cannot acquire when we get people with conflicting stories about what happened. We had an opportunity to see for ourselves what happened.

This is why we need body cameras. This is why Congressman CLEAVER and I have introduced the CAM TIP Act in this Congress, so that people across the length and breadth of this country can be protected who are officers. If they have the body camera on, you have the evidence of what occurred. Citizens are protected. Officers can't have these frivolous charges made real. They will help both officers and citizens.

Body cameras make a difference. They are not the panacea; they are not the silver bullet; they won't be the end-all; but they will be a means by which we will have additional evidence of what actually occurred. And many times that evidence is going to be much more potent, much more revealing than what people will say when they have conflicting stories.

I believe we ought to do all that we can to help the municipalities, the police departments across the length and breadth of this country acquire these body cameras, because these body cameras will make a difference in the lives of people.

In this case in South Carolina, if not but for the eye of the camera, I con-

clude we would have different results because you had two adults who proclaimed the actions of the officer to be appropriate.

It was Frank M. Johnson who declared that there should be parity in the DPS in Alabama.

Finally, I want to mention this case. It is the case of a 39-year-old White female, Viola Liuzzo, who came down to Alabama to do what she thought was the righteous thing and help in the civil rights movement. She was murdered by the KKK. And after an informant in the KKK revealed the identities of the culprits, and when they were brought to trial with overwhelming evidence, in the first trial, there was a hung jury. In the second trial, an all-White jury acquitted the officers. In the third trial, before the Honorable Frank M. Johnson, they were all found guilty, but they were not found guilty without the judge requiring the jury to deliberate at length. He may have been one of the first to give what is known as an Allen charge today, requiring the jurors to continue to deliberate notwithstanding their belief that they had exhausted all of their options. He required them to continue to deliberate; and, as a result, these three members of the KKK were found guilty. After having been found guilty, they were each sentenced to 10 years.

So I am honored tonight to have brought to the attention of this august body, to the attention of our State of Texas, to the attention of the United States of America the many, many exploits positive of Frank M. Johnson. I pray that this resolution will pass in the Congress of the United States of America for this unsung hero who understood that Black lives matter.

Mr. Speaker, I believe my time is up, and I am honored that you were gracious enough not to remove me from the microphone. Thank you for the additional time. God bless you.

I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3819. An act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 29, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3288. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Importation of Fresh Peppers From Ecuador Into the United States [Doc. No.: APHIS-2014-0086] (RIN: 0579-AE07) received October 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Agriculture.

3289. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Direct Grant Programs (RIN: 1890-AA19) received October 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3290. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Family Education Loan Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program [Docket ID: ED-2014-OPE-0161] (RIN: 1840-AD18) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3291. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final regulations — Program Integrity and Improvement [Docket ID: ED-2015-OPE-0020] (RIN: 1840-AD14) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3292. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Table of Excluded Nonnarcotic Products: Vicks VapoInhaler [Docket No.: DEA-367] (RIN: 1117-AB39) received October 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3293. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Protection System, Automatic Reclosing, and Sudden Pressure Relaying Maintenance Reliability Standard [Docket No.: RM15-9-000, Order No. 813] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3294. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Table of Excluded Nonnarcotic Products: Nasal Decongestant Inhaler/Vapor Inhaler [Docket No.: DEA-409] (RIN: 1117-ZA30) received October 27, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3295. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting a report by the Department on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period of June 1 through July 31, 2015, pursuant to Sec. 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and in accordance with Sec. 1(a)(6) of Executive Order 13313; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3296. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Special Wage Schedules for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Control Employees of the Vicksburg District in Mississippi (RIN: 3206-AN17) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3297. A letter from the Deputy Director, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Change of Address for the Interior Board of Indian Appeals received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3298. A letter from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Regulations, Areas of the National Park System, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Horse Management [NPS-KLGO-19374; PPAKKLGOL0, PPMRLE1Z.L00000] (RIN: 1024-AE27) received October 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3299. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 for the six month period ending December 31, 2014, pursuant to Sec. 11 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as amended (22 U.S.C. 621); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3300. A letter from the Federal Liaison Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Facilitate Applicant's Authorization of Access to Unpublished U.S. Patent Applications by Foreign Intellectual Property Offices [Docket No.: PTO-P-2014-0012] (RIN: 0651-AC95) received October 26, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3301. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lockheed Martin Corporation/Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-1419; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-183-AD; Amendment 39-18279; AD 2015-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3302. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. Turboprop Engines (Type Certificate previously held by AlliedSignal Inc., Garrett Engine Division; Garrett Turbine Engine Company; and AiResearch Manufacturing Company of Arizona) [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0913; Directorate Identifier 2012-NE-23-AD; Amendment 39-18261; AD 2015-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121,

Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3303. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0677; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-244-AD; Amendment 39-18289; AD 2015-20-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3304. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0934; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-030-AD; Amendment 39-18287; AD 2015-20-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3305. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0656; Directorate Identifier 2013-NM-224-AD; Amendment 39-18295; AD 2015-21-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3306. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Lycoming Engines Fuel Injected Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2007-0218; Directorate Identifier 92-ANE-56-AD; Amendment 39-18269; AD 2015-19-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3307. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2207; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-003-AD; Amendment 39-18272; AD 2015-19-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3308. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; PILATUS AIRCRAFT LTD. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2775; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-021-AD; Amendment 39-18277; AD 2015-19-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3309. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0773; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-068-AD; Amendment 39-18271; AD 2015-19-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3310. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0494; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-160-AD; Amendment 39-18275; AD 2015-19-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3311. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (formerly Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH) (Airbus Helicopters) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2012-0503; Directorate Identifier 2011-SW-032-AD; Amendment 39-18276; AD 2015-19-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3312. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piaggio Aero Industries S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2466; Directorate Identifier 2015-CE-018-AD; Amendment 39-18273; AD 2015-19-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3313. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2014-0929; Directorate Identifier 2014-NM-118-AD; Amendment 39-18274; AD 2015-19-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3314. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Poplarville-Pearl River County Airport, MS [Docket No.: FAA-2012-1210; Airspace Docket No.: 12-ASO-42] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3315. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Mackall AAF, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2015-3057; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ASO-9] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3316. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class C Airspace; Portland International Airport, OR [Docket No.: FAA-2015-2905; Airspace Docket No.: 15-AWA-3] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3317. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace for the following Nebraska towns: Albion, NE; Bassett, NE; Lexington, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2015-0841; Airspace Docket No.: 15-ACE-3] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3318. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Technical, Organizational, Conforming, and Correcting Amendments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations [Docket No.: FMCSA-2015-0207] (RIN: 2126-AB83) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3319. A letter from the Senior Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazmat Safety Law, PHMSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Special Permit and Approvals Standard Operating Procedures and Evaluation Process [Docket No.: PHMSA-2012-0260 (HM-233E)] (RIN: 2137-AE99) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3320. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Regulations Officer, FHWA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Design Standards for Highways [Docket No.: FHWA-2015-0003] (RIN: 2125-AF67) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3321. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Request for Comments on Definitions of Section 48 Property [Notice 2015-70] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3322. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB rule — *Morehouse v. Commissioner*, 769 F.3d 616 (8th Cir. 2014), rev'g 140 T.C. 350 (2013) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3323. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Update for Weighted Average Interest Rates, Yield Curves, and Segment Rates [Notice 2015-71] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3324. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Supplement to Rev. Proc. 2014-64, Implementation of Nonresident Alien Deposit Interest Regulations (Rev. Proc. 2015-50) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3325. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Applicable Federal Rates — November 2015 (Rev. Rul. 2015-22) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3326. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — 2015 National Pool (Rev. Proc. 2015-49) received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3327. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue

Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Listing Notice for Basket Option Contracts [Notice 2015-73] received October 23, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HENSARLING: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 2643. A bill to direct the Attorney General to provide State officials with access to criminal history information with respect to certain financial service providers required to undergo State criminal background checks, and for other purposes (Rept. 114-316, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 2510. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and make permanent bonus depreciation; with an amendment (Rept. 114-317, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Budget discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2510 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

The Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2643 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Mrs. TORRES):

H.R. 3842. A bill to improve homeland security, including domestic preparedness and response to terrorism, by reforming Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers to provide training to first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3843. A bill to authorize for a 7-year period the collection of claim location and maintenance fees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3844. A bill to establish the Energy and Minerals Reclamation Foundation to encourage, obtain, and use gifts, devises, and bequests for projects to reclaim abandoned mine lands and orphan oil and gas well sites, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 3845. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to repeal the changes regarding the Standard Reinsurance Agreement enacted as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NEAL, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. TURNER, Mr. KIND, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. REED):

H.R. 3846. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. PETERSON, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 3847. A bill to provide for reforms of the Export-Import Bank of the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BENISHEK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 3848. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationship of the Burt Lake Band as a distinct federally recognized Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 3849. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure access to qualified acupuncturist services for military members and military dependents, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure access to acupuncturist services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of qualified acupuncturist services under the Medicare program; to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the appointment of qualified acupuncturists as officers in the commissioned Regular Corp and the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Veterans' Affairs, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DELANEY, Ms. EDWARDS, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TSONGAS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. JONES):

H.R. 3850. A bill to provide for additional protections and disclosures to consumers when financial products or services are related to the consumers' military or Federal pensions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Armed Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 3851. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize appointment of Doctors of Chiropractic to regular and reserve corps of the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. HANNA):

H.R. 3852. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on the benefits of solar net energy metering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 3853. A bill to provide the Attorney General with greater discretion in issuing Federal firearms licenses, and to authorize temporarily greater scrutiny of Federal firearms licensees who have transferred a firearm unlawfully or had 10 or more crime guns traced back to them in the preceding 2 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 3854. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require all political committees to notify the Federal Election Commission within 48 hours of receiving cumulative contributions of \$1,000 or more from any contributor during a calendar year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. QUIGLEY (for himself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. RENACCI):

H.R. 3855. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require the Secretary of the Treasury to provide each individual taxpayer a receipt for an income tax payment which itemizes the portion of the payment which is allocable to various Government spending categories; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RENACCI (for himself and Mr. CARNEY):

H.R. 3856. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a safe harbor for de minimis errors on information returns and payee statements; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution reaffirming the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances as the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RIGELL, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. RUSSELL, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. PALMER, Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUELSKAMP, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. GRAVES of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. STUTZMAN, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. WALKER, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. YOUNG of Iowa, and Mr. BURGESS):

H. Res. 500. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the State of Israel has the right to defend itself against Iranian hostility and that the House of Representatives pledges to support Israel in its efforts to maintain its sovereignty; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AMODEI:

H. Res. 501. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States postal facility network is an asset of significant value and the United States Postal Service should take appropriate measures to maintain, modernize and fully utilize the existing post office network for economic growth; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. ELLISON (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. YARMUTH, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 502. A resolution honoring the life, legacy, and example of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the 20th anniversary of his death; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 3842.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 3843.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 and Article I, section 8, clause 18

By Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia:

H.R. 3844.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, section 3, clause 2 and Article I, section 8, clause 18

By Mr. YOUNG of Iowa:

H.R. 3845.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, Congress has the authority to regulate commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 3846.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution. he Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 3847.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BENISHEK:

H.R. 3848.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 Clause 3 of the Constitution

By Ms. JUDY CHU of California:

H.R. 3849.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 3850.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

By Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 3851.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. HIGGINS:

H.R. 3852.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 3853.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. O'ROURKE:

H.R. 3854.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 4 of Article I of the Constitution: The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

By Mr. QUIGLEY:

H.R. 3855.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce; as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. RENACCI:

H.R. 3856.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 140: Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 184: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
H.R. 209: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. MCNERNEY.
H.R. 213: Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 271: Ms. DUCKWORTH,
H.R. 282: Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 381: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 452: Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 546: Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WHITFIELD, and Mr. CULBERSON.
H.R. 592: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 664: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 703: Mr. GRAVES of Georgia and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 932: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 938: Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 953: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 985: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 987: Mr. NUGENT.
H.R. 1002: Mr. TURNER and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 1062: Mr. ZELDIN.
H.R. 1089: Ms. BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 1150: Mr. HANNA.

H.R. 1197: Mr. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 1220: Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 1258: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. ADAMS.
 H.R. 1301: Mrs. MIMI WALTERS of California, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.R. 1401: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H.R. 1475: Mr. KATKO, Mr. MOONEY of West Virginia, and Mrs. BLACK.
 H.R. 1478: Mr. DELANEY.
 H.R. 1492: Mr. FATTAH.
 H.R. 1516: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1517: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 1549: Mr. ROKITA.
 H.R. 1550: Mr. WILLIAMS.
 H.R. 1603: Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 1608: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 1610: Mr. LAHOOD.
 H.R. 1672: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 1688: Ms. DUCKWORTH.
 H.R. 1709: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 1728: Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. KIND, Ms. EDWARDS, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 1786: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 1814: Ms. MENG, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 1886: Mr. CRAMER.
 H.R. 1942: Mr. MOULTON.
 H.R. 1961: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 2050: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 2156: Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico.
 H.R. 2169: Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 2185: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
 H.R. 2241: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H.R. 2293: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
 H.R. 2375: Mr. FATTAH.
 H.R. 2382: Mr. GRAYSON.
 H.R. 2418: Mr. JOLLY.
 H.R. 2434: Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 2449: Mr. BERA.
 H.R. 2450: Mr. FATTAH.
 H.R. 2515: Ms. MATSUI and Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
 H.R. 2546: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 2612: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 2623: Ms. DELAURO.
 H.R. 2646: Mr. JOLLY.
 H.R. 2656: Mr. SABLAN.
 H.R. 2657: Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
 H.R. 2660: Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. NOLAN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. MENG, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 2689: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 2754: Mr. PAULSEN.
 H.R. 2759: Mr. PETERSON.
 H.R. 2802: Mr. KNIGHT.
 H.R. 2858: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. MEEHAN.

H.R. 2880: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CLAY, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. BASS, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H.R. 2894: Mr. ZINKE.
 H.R. 2896: Mr. JOYCE.
 H.R. 2903: Mr. HOLDING and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 2915: Mr. ASHFORD.
 H.R. 2932: Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 2962: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GRAYSON, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.
 H.R. 2978: Mr. COOPER.
 H.R. 3041: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 3046: Ms. MOORE.
 H.R. 3055: Mr. EMMER of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3067: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3071: Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 3084: Mr. HIMES.
 H.R. 3119: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 3126: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 3183: Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia and Mr. CRENSHAW.
 H.R. 3216: Mr. OLSON and Mr. KILMER.
 H.R. 3222: Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 3225: Mr. HASTINGS.
 H.R. 3229: Ms. TITUS, Mr. ROTHFUS, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.R. 3237: Mr. HONDA.
 H.R. 3268: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIPPON, and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 3314: Mr. ROE of Tennessee and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 3323: Mr. LOEBSACK.
 H.R. 3326: Mr. BLUM and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 3339: Ms. MOORE, Mr. FARR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. EDWARDS.
 H.R. 3399: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3423: Mr. KATKO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. HURT of Virginia.
 H.R. 3471: Ms. MCSALLY, Ms. KUSTER, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3484: Mr. BECERRA.
 H.R. 3488: Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. RIGELL, and Mr. ABRAHAM.
 H.R. 3514: Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRAYSON, and Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 3516: Mr. TOM PRICE of Georgia, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 3534: Mr. ZINKE.
 H.R. 3535: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 3542: Mr. NOLAN and Mr. HASTINGS.
 H.R. 3543: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H.R. 3549: Mr. YOUNG of Iowa.
 H.R. 3556: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. PIERLUISI, and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 3580: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
 H.R. 3621: Mr. HUFFMAN.
 H.R. 3632: Ms. TSONGAS and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 3652: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3658: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3664: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 3666: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Mr. GIBSON.
 H.R. 3696: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico.
 H.R. 3706: Mr. MARINO.
 H.R. 3729: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 3751: Mr. HASTINGS and Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 3756: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3765: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 3770: Mr. COHEN and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 3776: Mr. GRIFFITH.
 H.R. 3781: Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HASTINGS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. TORRES, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mrs. LAWRENCE, and Mrs. BEATTY.
 H.R. 3782: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 3783: Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H.R. 3786: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3799: Mr. MASSIE.
 H.R. 3800: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 3802: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. WALBERG.
 H.R. 3803: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.R. 3804: Mr. BROOKS of Alabama and Mr. MEADOWS.
 H.R. 3805: Mr. POMPEO.
 H.R. 3815: Mr. JONES.
 H.R. 3841: Ms. LEE, Mr. HONDA, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. HAHN, and Mr. TED LIEU of California.
 H.J. Res. 48: Mr. CAPUANO.
 H.J. Res. 50: Mr. MULVANEY.
 H.J. Res. 70: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BYRNE, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 71: Mr. LATTI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LONG, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BARR.
 H.J. Res. 72: Mr. LATTI, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BARTON, Mr. POMPEO, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. OLSON, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina, Mr. HARPER, Mr. LONG, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BARR.
 H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
 H. Res. 32: Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. FOSTER.
 H. Res. 110: Ms. SPEIER.
 H. Res. 265: Ms. MENG.
 H. Res. 346: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. FRANKEL of Florida.
 H. Res. 386: Mr. TAKANO.
 H. Res. 393: Mr. NADLER and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
 H. Res. 416: Ms. EDWARDS.
 H. Res. 428: Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. FARR, and Ms. NORTON.
 H. Res. 467: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. MOORE.